Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-073 *17 April 1995*

CONTENTS

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Comments on Regional issues 1
On Support for Arab Stance on NPT *[MENA]* 1
Denounces Turkish Operation in Iraq *[Cairo Radio]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Hamas, Peace Talks, Other Issues *[AL-AHRAM 12 Apr]* 1
Authority Statement on Security Issues *[Jericho VOP]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Zeroual Continues Talks, Receives NPSD Leader *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Zeroual Reiterates Rejection of Rome Meeting *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Foreign Minister Signals Concessions to FIS *[FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE 15 Apr]* 8
Foreign Minister Dembri Continues Visit to Germany *[Algiers TV]* 9
Meets With Kinkel, Officials *[Algiers Radio]* 9

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses U.S. Aid, Nuclear Treaty *[MENA]* 9
Cairo Reportedly To Abstain on NPT Renewal *[AL-SHA'B 11 Apr]* 10
Al-Baz: U.S. Not Exerting Pressure for NPT *[MENA]* 11
Al-Baz Views Peace Process, NPT, U.S. Ties *[MENA]* 11
Musa Hopes Israel Changes Stance on Nuclear Arms *[MENA]* 12
Musa Hopes All Sanctions on Iraq Will Be Lifted *[MENA]* 12
Musa Explains Cairo's Stance on NPT Extension *[MENA]* 12
Omani Information Minister Arrives on Visit *[Cairo Radio]* 13
Paper Welcomes Resolution Allowing Iraq To Sell Oil *[MENA]* 13
Paper: Country Satisfied With UN Resolution on Iraq *[MENA]* 13
Papers Assail Nuclear Powers' 'Arbitrary' Conduct *[MENA]* 13

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Anniversary of 'Failed Aggression' *[Tripoli International]* 14

Sudan

Reportage, Reaction to Iranian Speaker's Visit 17
Meets With Foreign Minister *[Republic of Sudan Network]* 17
Talks 'Positive, Constructive' *[Republic of Sudan Network]* 17
Communique Issued *[Republic of Sudan Network]* 18
Opposition Warns Against Agreements *[MENA]* 18
Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Meets al-Bashir *[Republic of Sudan Network]* 19
Views Expanding Ties With Minister *[Republic of Sudan Network]* 19

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Ministry Cited on Release of 120 Seized During Unrest *[AFP]* 20
Dissident Cleric Imprisoned for Outspoken Views *[AFP]* 20
Tehran Radio Interviews Opposition Figure 20

Kuwait

Assembly Speaker Views Relations, Other Issues *[HAMSHAHRI 9 Apr]* 21

United Arab Emirates

Defense Minister Urges End to Iraq Sanctions *[Baghdad Radio]* 22

Yemen

President Salih Discusses Unity, Arab Ties *[AL-SAFIR 12 Apr]* 22
Al-Iryani on Pact With Saudi Arabia, Other Issues *[MENA]* 26

IRAQ

Leading Officials, Bodies React to Resolution 986 27
Saddam Chairs RCC, Ba'th Meeting *[INA]* 27
'Text' of 'Aziz Statement *[AFP]* 27
Ramadan Urges Rejecting Resolution *[Baghdad Radio]* 27
Assembly Speaker: Resolution 'Unfair' *[Amman Radio]* 28
Cabinet Urges 'Categorical' Rejection *[Baghdad Radio]* 28
Assembly Views 'Serious Dimensions' *[INA]* 28
Masses Declare 'Absolute' Rejection of Resolution *[INA]* 29
'Mammoth' Demonstrations Cited *[INA]* 29
Press Reacts to 'Serious' UN Resolution 986 30
AL-THAWRAH Assails Ruling *[Baghdad Radio]* 30
Ruling Called 'Deliberate Affront' *[INA]* 32
Radio Calls Ruling 'Dangerous' *[Baghdad Radio]* 33
Opposition Radio Comments *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 34
Daily: British Policy Driven By U.S. 'Motives' 34
'Lies' in Western Daily Assailed *[INA]* 34
IAEA Official Calls Story 'False' *[Baghdad Radio]* 35

ISRAEL

Prime Minister Rabin on Peace Process, Syria *[MA'ARIV 14 Apr]* 36
Rabin on Peace Process, U.S. Involvement *[HA'ARETZ 14 Apr]* 39
Rabin Does Not Rule Out Palestinian State in Gaza *[Jerusalem Channel 1 TV]* 40
Peres on State of Peace Talks, U.S. Efforts *[DAVAR 14 Apr]* 41

JORDAN

Foreign Minister Terms UNSC Oil Sale 'Positive' *[JORDAN TIMES 16 Apr]* 43
Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz Pays Visit, Meets Leaders 43
Received by Foreign Minister *[PETRA-JNA]* 43
Briefs Prime Minister on U.S. Trip *[Amman Radio]* 43
Official Says Iraq Pipeline 'Strategic Decision' *[JORDAN TIMES 17 Apr]* 43
Minister Meets Japanese Fact-Finding Mission *[Amman TV]* 44
King Views Foreign Visits, University Clashes *[Amman TV]* 45
Foreign Minister on Hamas, Gulf Ties, Other Issues *[AL-ASWAQ 16 Apr]* 46

LEBANON

Hizballah Official on 'Duty' To Confront Israelis *[AL-'AHD 7 Apr]* 48
Paper: Israel Foments Palestinian Civil War *[AL-SAFIR 12 Apr]* 48

SYRIA

Vice President Mashariqah on Peace Process *[London AL-HAYAH 8 Apr]* 50

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Taleban Leaders Call For Jihad Against Rabbani *[IRNA]* 51
Government, Taleban Prepare for New Battles *[Message of Freedom]* 51

India

Commentary, Reaction to Visit by Iran's Rafsanjani 51
Rao Comments on Ties With Iran *[Tehran IRNA]* 51
Commentary on Visit *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Welcomed by Rao at Airport *[Tehran IRNA]* 53
'Time is Ripe' for Dialogue *[THE PIONEER 17 Apr]* 54

Iran

Radio on NPT Revision, U.S. 'Double Standards' *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Rafsanjani Addresses SNSC on U.S. 'Pressure' *[Tehran TV]* 55
Cancellation of Share in Caspian Oil Deal Viewed *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 9 Apr]* 55
View on Arab Reaction to Israeli 'Spy' Satellite *[Tehran Radio]* 56
Turkey Claims Iraqi Withdrawal in 'Immediate Future' *[IRNA]* 56
Daily Questions Turkish Incursion Into Iraq *[IRNA]* 57
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Leaves for India, Georgia *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Comments on Ties With India, U.S. *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Views Relations With Georgia *[IRNA]* 58

Pakistan

Commentary, Reaction to Bhutto's U.S. Visit 59
Leghari: 'Major Breakthrough' *[THE NATION 16 Apr]* 59
Bhutto Remarks on 'Success' *[Islamabad TV]* 59

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Comments on Regional issues

On Support for Arab Stance on NPT

NC1504073495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 14 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has affirmed that the Arab stance regarding the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty is very clear. He pointed out that the League's decision in this regard was approved unanimously on 23 March.

'Abd-al-Majid said in an interview with AL-AHRAM newspaper to be published in its 15 April edition, that the Arab countries' stance on the just and comprehensive peace process has not changed. But what threatens the peace process now is the Israeli method of stalling, hesitation, and reneging on agreements which we see every day.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid expressed his hope that there will be determination and concern for a just and comprehensive peace between Israel and all the Arab countries, including Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon. He clarified that our action is sound and based on a strategic peace. We need to work on realizing our goals for peace. The Arab League secretary general said that the Damascus Declaration summit or Alexandria summit could be the basis for establishing an Arab system because these two meetings represent the convergence of political wills. He clarified that the countries that met in Alexandria last year—Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria—are countries with great importance and weight in the region. They issued a joint communique after their summit in Alexandria which could constitute the grounds for an Arab order. There are aspirations that such a convergence of wills would be repeated and improved to include all the Arab countries. This is part of what I can imagine for the Arab order. We need to move step by step. We should not jump all at once to a comprehensive Arab order which joins 22 countries.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed that the Middle Eastern market will not be established without a comprehensive and just peace. The Israeli side must realize that there are some opportunities and exchange of interests to be gained and that the political grounds for these must be prepared.

The Arab League secretary general affirmed that what Israel claims, that economic relations will soon resolve all the problems, is not at all true.

He said: I cannot believe that Israel's technological advancement will take control. The Arab countries could advance technologically in a few years. The important thing is for us to know what we want and give the private sector a free hand to participate in facing the Gatt Agreement.

Denounces Turkish Operation in Iraq

NC1604161095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today denounced the continuing Turkish invasion of northern Iraq. He called for the immediate withdrawal of the Turkish forces from the area. He stressed that all Arab countries are concerned about Iraq's unity and territorial integrity. He handed the Turkish ambassador to Egypt a message to the Turkish Government officially protesting the continuation of the Turkish military operations in northern Iraq. This message is in response to a letter that Ankara sent to the Arab League to justify its military operations in northern Iraq following the Arab League General Secretariat's condemnation of the operations last month.

After his meeting with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid today, the Turkish ambassador said that he promised the Arab League secretary general that the Turkish forces will withdraw from northern Iraq soon, but he did not set a date.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Hamas, Peace Talks, Other Issues

NC1504160695 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 Apr 95 p 6

[Interview with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Afkar al-Kharadli in Cairo on 11 April]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Kharadli] We have heard that there are splits within Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. How true is this?

['Arafat] I will show you the pamphlet issued on this subject. ('Arafat ordered photocopies of the pamphlet that refer to the split within Hamas and gave them to us). I was surprised by this. I was also surprised when a group of them distributed in the West Bank and Gaza a statement declaring they were splitting from Hamas because of their desire not to oppose their people and not to receive instructions from other than their people. This dissident group is an inseparable part of the Palestinian people and it rejects deception and sorcery.

[Al-Kharadli] We have heard about this sorcery inside Hamas. Can you clarify this matter?

['Arafat] It was absurd. I did not believe it when I was told about what they found out during the investigation, namely that some pro-Iranian members of Fathi al-Shaqaqi's group were deceiving 14- and 15-year-old youngsters. We started to hear about this matter when a father complained that this group had deceived his son. We brought the youngster in and questioned him. He pointed the finger at a second and a third youngster. He told us: The group members prayed for me, clothed me with a shroud, put me in a tomb and told me: You will

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die, be buried here, and will meet the Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be on him.

I was surprised and said this was sorcery since there are no such things in Islam. We arrested the man identified by the youngster. That man looked like a gentleman and when he was brought face to face with the youngsters he denied what he did with them. One of the youngsters called him a liar and told him: You told me you were God's envoy and therefore you cannot lie. But you are lying now and this means that what you told me was not true. We tried this man and the court sentenced him yesterday to life imprisonment on charges of sorcery.

When a youngster blew himself up, his mother went to the Hamas members and asked them why they took her son and sent him to his death and did not send their own sons and nephews and why they did not go themselves.

This was the way followed by the Iranians during the war with Iraq to deceive their victims into believing that that was the way to paradise. Do you remember? It is the same method.

[Al-Kharadli] Why have the Hamas operations become more numerous since authority was transferred to you?

['Arafat] The target is not Israel, which is not against them. These operations' objective is to allow Israel to use the issue of security or the lack of it as an excuse for stopping the implementation of what we agreed on with regard to withdrawal from the remaining parts of the West Bank and to holding the elections.

[Al-Kharadli] Who do you believe is behind this?

['Arafat] The sorcerers and charlatans.

'Arafat read the following paragraph from the statement issued by the Hamas dissenters:

(We in the Movement of Justice in Support of Our People's Sons are doing all we can to limit these tricks and nip them in the bud for the sake of protecting our people's achievements made through the blood of martyrs, the pain of the wounded, and the sacrifices of the prisoners and detainees. We stress in our first statement the gravity of the actions perpetrated by these Hamas elements that are sitting in their houses and trading with the blood of the martyrs and the homeland. Through this statement, we hold them responsible before our people's sons for their tricks which aim to create sedition so as to cover up their sins).

After reading the statement, 'Arafat said: This came from their own people.

[Al-Kharadli] In whose interest is this Hamas desire not to have a withdrawal and not to have elections?

['Arafat] Its own interest. It has received orders from Iran not to allow the establishment of a Palestinian state.

[Al-Kharadli] Is its affiliation with Iran stronger than its affiliation to Palestine?

['Arafat] Of course. Did Iran not declare three days ago that it has provided the funds and expenses paid by Hamas? Thank God it is not I who said this. I wish our poor people might get some of these funds. On the contrary, our workers are laid off and our merchants and citizens find themselves without work but it gets an unlimited amount of money.

[Al-Kharadli] Is it true that you have asked for the entry of UN forces into the self-rule areas?

['Arafat] This is part of the agreement signed by us and the Israelis. The agreement stipulates the presence of UN forces in Gaza and Jericho first and then in the remaining Palestinian territories.

We and the Israelis have officially agreed on the presence of forces from Norway, Finland, Sweden, and two European Union [EU] countries. That agreement was concluded before Sweden and Finland joined the EU. This is in addition to Australia, Canada, and Turkey.

These are the forces that we have agreed on their deployment.

[Al-Kharadli] When will these forces be deployed?

['Arafat] When agreement is reached between us and these countries on the date of deployment, the means of deployment, and so on.

[Al-Kharadli] Has this anything to do with the recent terrorist incidents?

['Arafat] No. It has nothing to do with the incidents.

[Al-Kharadli] What are the effects of the recent incident on the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations?

['Arafat] My God, I want to say something. Israel cannot use the security issue as an excuse at all. Has it succeeded in imposing security with its whole army and control the security situation with its army? Has the United States, with all its might, succeeded in controlling security in its territories? Has Russia, the strongest nuclear power so far, succeeded in controlling security in its territories? Have all the European countries succeeded in controlling security in their territories? No one can control security no matter how strong he is. As for us, the solution is a not a security one but a political one.

[Al-Kharadli] And an economic one?

['Arafat] The political solution is followed by stability and this leads to economic revival.

[Al-Kharadli] What about the aid earmarked for the Palestinian Authority? Has it started flowing?

['Arafat] Unfortunately, we have received very little of the aid we were promised. We hope and expect that the promises that were made to us will be kept.

[Al-Kharadli] What projects have you started on?

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['Arafat] Unfortunately, we have so far started with small projects. We have not yet started on the big projects, including some housing projects; the renovation of some hospitals, schools, and roads; and starting some small projects on sewage systems and treating discharged water for agricultural use. The latter is a big project that we hope to be able to complete. There are some pledges from three European countries to finance an airport: These countries are the Netherlands, France, and Italy. Italy was replaced by two other countries—Germany and Turkey—on building a port. In addition, agreement has been reached to set up a number of industrial areas in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, all of which are projects that were studied and for which the necessary programs, maps and feasibility studies have already been finished. They are now awaiting what we have been promised.

We also have to underline our need for electricity, telephone communications, and oil projects. Unfortunately, the occupation has totally destroyed our infrastructure.

I will give you an example. There used to be a railway line dating back to the times of Egyptian rule. Can you believe that they removed all the rails and used them in their military projects? Is this possible? The railway line belongs to the people. Is it logical for a railway line to be dismantled and used for military purposes?

The Israeli occupation destroyed the whole infrastructure. We now have to start from scratch to rebuild everything.

[Al-Kharadli] Could some progress be made on the Palestinian- Israeli track despite the events that take place every now and then?

['Arafat] What is happening now is not my responsibility alone. This agreement is not a Palestinian-Israeli agreement. It was sponsored by President Clinton in Washington and was signed by U.S. Secretary State Warren Christopher and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, exactly as happened when President Husni Mubarak sponsored the second agreement and signed it alongside my signature. The first agreement was signed on behalf of the Palestinians by brother Abu-Mazin in Washington. The second agreement was signed by me here in Cairo, as well as by U.S. Secretary of State Christopher and Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev.

[Al-Kharadli] Returning to the issue of Hamas, you have said that you will disarm the militias. Will you be able to disarm the Hamas organization?

['Arafat] This is one of the problems left us by the occupation. It created a market for weapons, as exists in the West Bank now. It did so in Gaza too. I told all the ambassadors of the Western countries, and the conference cosponsors—the United States and Russia, China, and Japan—to go see how the sale and purchase of weapons in the West Bank goes on like it did in Gaza before. The Israeli aim—in Gaza before they withdrew and in the West Bank now—is to ignite a Palestinian civil war. But everyone should realize that our people are civilized, patriotic, and steadfast and will never allow themselves to be drawn into the whirlpools prepared by their enemies.

[Al-Kharadli] We have heard that some Palestinians resold the land in Gaza from which the Israelis withdrew to the Israelis after prices went up. Have you tackled this issue?

['Arafat] No, this is just idle talk. There are now frenzied Israeli attempts, particularly around Jerusalem, to buy land, especially from Palestinians living abroad. These attempts include the forgery of some documents. We have formed a higher committee chaired by brother Faysal al-Husayni and my brother the awqaf minister. They are helped by other brothers in specifically following this very serious issue. We have in fact seized some of these forgeries and filed lawsuits in the courts and succeeded in stopping them.

[Al-Kharadli] Will there be any contact on your side with the Israelis to confront Hamas?

['Arafat] Our negotiations with the Israelis have nothing to do with the Hamas issue. That is another matter. We are, of course, insisting on the Israeli side's commitment to implement accurately and honestly what we have agreed on and not to use security or anything else as an excuse for blocking the implementation of the agreement. We are continuing to do so through all the parties. The president [Mubarak] told me that the Palestinian issue was one of the major topics during his Washington talks.

[Al-Kharadli] How are Palestinian-Gulf relations developing in light of your recent meeting with the Saudi ambassador in Cairo?

['Arafat) I handed him two copies of the Palestinian passports that Palestinian pilgrims will use. The Palestinian pilgrimage delegation will travel for the first time using Palestinian passports, God willing.

[Al-Kharadli] How many Palestinian pilgrims will there be?

['Arafat] We have not yet agreed on the number.

[Al-Kharadli] Have your relations with the other Gulf states improved?

['Arafat] Our relations with Kuwait have not developed. But, praise be to God, our relations with our other Gulf brothers are good. We now have a delegation in Qatar and another in the United Arab Emirates. As you know, I was in Saudi Arabia a few days ago. Thank God, our relations with our Gulf brothers are good.

[Al-Kharadli] Will Palestinian passports be valid in any country?

['Arafat] The passport has been recognized.

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[Al-Kharadli] Who recognized it?

['Arafat] The cosponsors of the peace process.

[Al-Kharadli] Can it be used in the United States?

['Arafat] The United States is one of the cosponsors. The European countries also recognized it, and we informed the Arab League, the Islamic countries, and the nonaligned countries about it, and we are informing the whole world about this passport.

[Al-Kharadli] Recognizing a passport means recognizing the state that issued it.

['Arafat] I want to tell you something: The state is there whether they like it or not. Jerusalem is its capital. If they like it, fine; if not, then let them drink Gaza sea water. Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Palestine. It was occupied in 1967, and it is subject to Security Council Resolution 242, on whose basis the Madrid peace conference was held—namely, on the basis of exchanging land for peace.

[Al-Kharadli] During your meeting with President Mubarak were any new ideas proposed for advancing Palestinian-Israeli negotiations?

['Arafat] Yes, without doubt. The president is holding contacts with all concerned parties to implement what has been agreed upon. The method to achieve this is to contact all sides in order to influence the Israeli stance. Contacts with the Israelis are continuing both directly and indirectly.

Authority Statement on Security Issues

JN1504194495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1745 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers held its weekly meeting this morning chaired by President Yasir 'Arafat.

Brother Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the Presidency's secretary general, said the Council of Ministers discussed the security situation and stability in the Authority's areas. The president presented a detailed report on the security situation and the practices designed to distort the stable security situation in the Authority's areas and the deliberate exaggerations by hostile media about what they called the deterioration of the situation.

He said the president briefed the council on the contacts and meetings his excellency held on this subject and the measures adopted by the security organizations to maintain the security and safety of the citizens and the homeland.

The president emphasized that all forces should abide by what the PLO signed in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and should not carry out any actions that threaten these agreements. He said these forces have the right to oppose these agreements by democratic means, adding that there is no truth in the argument of some forces calling for opening the way for those who negotiate and those who fight. Following the signing of the agreement, no party should endanger the PLO commitments made to the world.

He said: On the other hand, we urge the Israeli Government to put an end to all violations of this agreement by any side in Israel.

Brother al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said: The president told the council that if it is fully true that the Israelis did not commit themselves to the agreement, the PLO is the only party that has the right to announce the failure of the peace process in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The president emphasized that the first condition for the success of any constructive dialogue between the parties in the Palestinian arena is the respect by all forces for the agreement the PLO signed, because the the Palestinian people as a whole have backed the peace process, and there is no national decision to resume fighting.

The Presidency's secretary general added that the president emphasized that all forces have the right to struggle through democratic means and to run in the elections, because we are democratic. We will be soldiers in case the elections results are in favor of this or that party.

'Abd-al-Rahim added the president stressed that we should give a chance to the agreement. If it succeeds in realizing the national objective of the Palestinian people, peace will prevail in the region. Otherwise, we will return to the Executive Committee and the PLO Central Council to adopt a collective decision. He said there is a chance with the Israelis, which is a date agreed on with them by the middle of this year.

The president said the operations carried out by Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad Movement have a negative and destructive result on all levels, including the living condition of citizens. The president stressed that no one can go further in violating security and in giving the illusion that the Authority is unable to honor its commitments.

The president stressed that he will strongly defend the Palestinian dream in spite of some of his personal reservations about some articles in the agreement. He stressed that there is no authority in the Palestinian land other than the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. He said: These actions that violate security and the Authority's commitments are not carried out by chance, but they stand as a plan to prevent us from reaching to the West Bank and establishing our independent Palestinian state. Whenever we come close to a result, they carry out these rejected actions.

The president stressed anew that the PLO and the PNA are committed to the agreements that have been signed, and all should commit themselves to the results of these agreements. He said: We do not bring anyone to account

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for the words that are said but we bring to account those who violate the law and carry out practices that infringe upon our commitments.

The secretary general of the Palestinian Authority [PA] Presidency said that at the end of its discussion of the security situation the Council of Ministers issued the following statement:

The PNA Council of Ministers was briefed by His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat on the overall measures taken by the Authority to tackle the security situation. The Council of Ministers reaffirmed the following principles:

1. Continuing the political battle to stop all Israeli settlement activities, confiscation of Palestinian territory, particularly in holy Jerusalem and the areas surrounding it, and the continuation of its isolation; as well as to implement the phased agreement, including the relocation of the Israeli military forces in the rest of the West Bank and holding elections, to confront procrastination and disruption, and to stop collective punishment and the policy of isolation and closure of the West Bank and Gaza, because this will cause more tension, undermine the confidence- building atmosphere, and provoke national feelings.

2. Proceeding from our respect for and commitment to the agreements signed by the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the Government of Israel, the National Authority [NA] underscores the following:

A. The PNA and our people are committed to the agreements signed by the PLO and the Israeli Government, with all their political, economic, and security aspects.

B. Calling on all national forces, factions, and figures, in all their affiliations, to exert their utmost to maintain the aspirations and objectives of our Palestinian people, which are represented by establishing their independent state, with Jerusalem as its capital, and to foil all pretexts—which are used by the Israeli Government and which are in line with the objectives of the extremist Israeli forces—in order not to implement the agreements which it signed. On its part, the PA will work to create an atmosphere of confidence and national fraternity, based on the higher national interests of the Palestinian people and the interests of our kinsfolk, workers, farmers, merchants, and students, as well as their future.

C. As the PNA reiterates its respect for and intention to entrench the principle of political pluralism, it announces its absolute rejection of any attempt to encroach on the security of the people and the homeland and of the Authority's pluralism. In this regard, the National Palestinian Police Forces, with all their apparatuses, are the only side authorized to maintain public security and the safety of citizens and their property; as well as to safeguard citizens' basic and public liberties, to prevent monopolies and tampering with people's food and supplies, and to maintain the security and stability of our citizens and people by organizing the possession and carrying of arms in accordance with the valid regulations and laws, and preventing the use of arms in a way that undermines the obligations of the National Authority and the agreements signed between the PLO and the Israeli Government.

3. Based on the abovementioned, the PNA calls on all forces to hold a comprehensive national dialogue on the basis of respecting the PLO's commitments and the Palestinian people's higher interests and aspirations represented by establishing their independent state, with Jerusalem as its capital.

The PA Presidency secretary general added: The president then reported to the Council of Ministers on the negotiations with the Israeli side, through the designated channels, particularly with regard to the proposed ideas on the relocation of the Israeli Army and its withdrawal from populated areas in the West Bank cities, villages, and camps, as matters and ideas are still being discussed provided that the agreement will be reached next June.

The president briefed the Council of Ministers on his meeting with his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, who briefed President 'Arafat on the outcome of his visit to the United States with regard to the Palestine question and its developments.

Both the Palestine question and achieving progress on the Palestinian track topped President Mubarak's talks with the U.S. President and officials as well as with the Congressmen and the Jewish Americans who visited his excellency.

President Mubarak told his brother President 'Arafat that Egypt strongly supports the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles, led by redeployment of the Israeli forces and holding the Palestinian elections. He also stressed to the Americans that the Palestine question is the key to solutions in the Middle East.

President 'Arafat conveyed the desire of President Mubarak and the brother Egyptian officials to promote the relationship with the PA on all levels, particularly on the economic and trade levels, as well as to extend facilities regarding the entrance through the Rafah crossing. President Mubarak also stressed his support for the PA in taking all measures designed to provide security and safety for Palestinian citizens.

President Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] handed his brother President Mubarak a special Palestinian passport in appreciation for the efforts he is making in support of the Palestine question and the NA. President Mubarak accepted this passport out of pride in the fraternal Egyptian-Palestinian relationship.

Brother 'Abd-al-Rahim said: Afterward, the Council of Ministers discussed a number of issues. It listened to a

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report submitted by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat on the round of talks held in Cairo 10-11 April. Dr. 'Urayqat said negotiations remained at square one.

The Council of Ministers decided to hold a new round of negotiations on elections in Cairo 25-26 April. It also decided that the ministerial committee for following up on negotiations will remain in session to prepare for negotiations with the Israeli side on reconsidering the security and economic appendixes of the Cairo agreement. This agreement stipulates that it is possible to amend it six months or one year after signing it.

'Abd-al-Rahim added that the Council of Ministers listened to a report submitted by Dr. Nabil Sha'th on the preparatory meeting of the donor states which was held in the United States last week. Dr. Sha'th explained that the meeting laid the foundation which will be adopted in the official meeting that will be held in Paris 27-28 April. This meeting will be preceded by a meeting between the preparatory committee and the Palestinian delegation 25-26 April.

The Washington meeting approved the budget submitted by the Palestinian Finance Ministry, including the financing of the current budget deficit, which totals $139 million for 1995, in addition to offsetting the remaining deficit of 1994, which totals $92 million, and paying the financial obligations toward the Palestinian Monetary Authority, which has a total capital of $10 million.

The meeting said that last year the donors paid $238 million, including $220 million paid to the universities, authority, and police for their current spending, out of $820 million that had been pledged for 1994. If we add what the donors pledged for 1995 to their pledges for 1994 that were not met, the pledges will reach $1100 million, most of which are for new projects, except $139 million for salaries and current spending. The participants have promised to extend support and to pay their commitments during the upcoming Paris meeting.

Dr. Sha'th said it was agreed that Europe and Japan will resume their participation in the committee that coordinates assistance and prepare for the next meeting in Paris. Meetings were held in Washington on free trade status for Palestinians goods in the U.S. market and the export of flowers and strawberries to the United States. The meetings there also discussed industrial zones.

Brother 'Abd-al-Rahim said the Council of Ministers then discussed conditions of the Palestinian expatriates abroad and the contacts they made with the president and the ministers on how they can contribute to the building of the homeland. The Council of Ministers decided to set up a department for expatriates affiliated to the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. The department will be based in Ramallah. A ministerial committee will be formed comprising Dr. Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation; Ilyas Frayj, minister of tourism and antiquities; and Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad, minister of transport, to supervise this task and organize the relations of the Palestinians abroad with the homeland, especially the Palestinian Americans, and to make contacts with them in order to work out a plan on extending their active contribution to the reconstruction.

This ministerial committee will make the decisions concerning setting up the expatriates department and appointing efficient employees, according to the law.

The Presidency's secretary general added that the Council of Ministers discussed the subject of the greed of some traders who store basic goods and refuse to sell them to citizens in order to increase their prices and make mean profits at the expense of citizens. This is something that is widely condemned by citizens, especially in Gaza.

Some ministers called for government control on trade in some areas and for importing necessary goods if the violations represented in increasing prices, storing basic goods, and importing spoiled food continue.

The Council of Ministers endorsed the decision made by the president assigning a representative of the Trade Ministry, director of supplies in the PNA, and the customs section in the civilian police [al-shurtah al-madaniyah] to put an immediate end and stop these violations, price hikes, and storing of goods, and send any trader who tries to tamper with the people's food and needs to the state security court because these actions encroach on the economic security of the Palestinian people's masses.

'Abd-al-Rahim said the Council of Minister heard reports from the ministers on their visits to several areas of the homeland, and emphasized that the Council of Ministers reassure our kinsfolk in Qalqiliyah and Tulkarm, following the visit of sister Umm-Jihad [Social Affairs Minister Intisar al-Wazir], that Qalqiliyah and Tulkarm are within the geographic jurisdiction, and they are inseparable part of the independent Palestinian state that will be realized, God willing.

He added that Housing Minister Dr. Zakariya al-Agha presented a report on meetings of the executive bureau of the Council of Arab Housing Ministers that was held in Cairo on 12-13 April, especially on the decision adopted by the bureau, at the request of the Palestinian housing minister, recommending that the council to send a delegation to get acquainted with the housing conditions in Palestine and present a report on this subject.

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Algeria

Zeroual Continues Talks, Receives NPSD Leader

LD1504140895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Within the framework of the bilateral consultations under way on the presidential elections and its technical ramifications, Head of State Liamine Zeroual received at his office this morning a delegation of the National Party for Solidarity and Development [NPSD] led by Mr. Mohamed Cherif Taleb. [passage omitted]

Upon leaving the presidential office, Mr. Mohamed Cherif Taleb made the following statement:

[Begin Taleb recording] Our meeting with His Excellency was an opportunity for the NPSD to put forward two main proposals. The first proposal concerned the holding of the presidential elections before the end of this year, and the second one concerned the spiral of violence.

As far as the first proposal was concerned, we asserted the need for setting up a multiparty national commission to oversee the presidential elections. For the second proposal on how to end violence, we proposed the following:

First, a profound dialogue with all political affiliations;

Second, the holding of a conference for national reconciliation, which should be crowned with the signing of a national, political, and ethical alliance to prepare the way for the holding of the forthcoming presidential elections;

Third, the holding of free and fair presidential elections.

Once the presidential elections are held, an open government should be formed in line with the outcome of the presidential elections; the Transitional National Council should be expanded to include new members.

Once all concerned parties have agreed upon the shape of the transitional period, legislative and local elections should be held.

We are, nonetheless, optimists. And God willing, a solution will be found soon. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Zeroual Reiterates Rejection of Rome Meeting

LD1604184395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting with journalists to assess the latest round of dialogue, the official spokesman for the presidency today revealed that the state has agreed to proposals by some parties to set up an independent committee to supervise the elections. Mr. Mihoub Mihoubi said that, during the latest round of dialogue, the presidency had noticed three types of parties: First, parties that support the holding of presidential elections, others who have doubts about holding them, as for the third type, it seeks another course of action. At the same meeting, Mr. Mihoubi revealed that the presidency had promised to study all the constructive proposals originating from the homeland, and to reply to all of them. He stressed that elections did not mean the end of dialogue, but dialogue will continue, as he put it. This dialogue in the coming stages will focus on debates on how to organize the elections and set up an independent committee to supervise them, Mr. Mihoubi said.

On the other hand, Mr. Mihoubi said that during the third round of national dialogue that ended yesterday, President Liamine Zeroual affirmed that the Algerian state rejected in bulk and in detail the confusion and misleading criticism made by some Algerian opposition parties at the Rome meeting. Mr. Mihoubi said that President Zeroual had stressed that the attitudes of some participants in the Rome meeting had shed more light on the causes of the continuation of terrorist violence in Algeria. On the same occasion, the head of state pointed out that the more and more fierce blind terror since last January showed that the Rome meeting was indeed a nonevent, a meeting that was meant to be seen as a solution or an attempt to confer credibility on criminals.

Concerning violence, the head of state stressed that he categorically rejected the unfounded accusations seeking to give the impression that the state has abandoned the quest for dialogue in favor of the eradication of violence option. The head of state also brought back to mind the silence of some political parties to the repeated calls by the state for the condemnation of violence, together with the fact that some people continued to adopt negative positions despite the calming measures taken by the state.

Concerning the human rights-related issues, the head of state urged the parties who spoke about abuses in this domain without furnishing evidence and proofs to stop the political one-upmanship on this subject, and instead to seek to make a real contribution to the preserving of basic human rights.

With regard to fighting terrorism, Mr. Mihoubi said that the head of state has affirmed that the state will continue fighting terrorism relentlessly, and that this action is taking place with firmness, given that the state was bearing its responsibilities to citizens. Mr. Zeroual underlined that those who had opted for criminal acts and sabotage against the nation must stop these practices, and then all scopes will be open for national reconciliation with all parties. Mr. Mihoubi also affirmed that the state was waiting for all sincere, authentically Algerian, and constructive initiatives to put an end to bloodshed. He pointed out that the presidential elections were decided as a first step toward a solution, because Algeria cannot continue living a permanent political crisis. Regarding preparations for these elections, Mr. Mihoubi said that they were underway and continually progressing.

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Foreign Minister Signals Concessions to FIS

AU1504164995 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 15 Apr 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by R.B.: "Algiers Is Obviously Ready for Cooperation With Some of the Salvation Front"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bonn, 14 April—Against the background of the armed struggle between fundamentalists and the state leadership in Algeria, which has killed more than 30,000 people over the past three years, Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri for the first time has indicated the possibility of cooperating with the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). Asked in an interview with this newspaper on the occasion of his visit to Bonn whether some of the fundamentalists should be included in the search for a political settlement of the conflict, he said with a view to the most important fundamentalist organization, which was banned there years ago: "I believe that all political movements of the country should be included in the undertaking of defending pluralism and the multiparty democracy." Dembri invited all international human rights organizations to acquaint themselves personally with the state leadership's efforts to protect human rights; there have been repeated accusations abroad that the Algerian security forces have committed serious human rights violations in their fight against the fundamentalists.

Asked whether the FIS could participate in presidential elections, which are to take place by the end of this year, if the Algerian state leadership has its will, Dembri stated with an obvious gesture of concession that any candidate may participate who respects the principles of the Constitution: pluralism, respect for the basic freedoms, sovereignty of the people, renunciation of violence as a means of gaining or preserving power, and the principle that Islam must not be the basis of party policy activities. Regarding Madani and Belhaj, the FIS founders who have been sentenced to long prison terms, Dembri noted with surprising mildness: "I read that many of the party's founding members have a profound aversion to violence and terrorism and that these founding members want to be included in the current efforts for a national agreement on the prospects of Algeria's society."

Dembri did not repeat the state leadership's harsh criticism of the meeting of Algerian opposition parties in Rome in January. Under the aegis of the Catholic Sant'Egidio Community, these parties—including the FIS, the democratic Socialist Forces Front, and the former unity party FLN [National Liberation Front]—worked out a common document there. In this document they demanded the inclusion of the FIS in the efforts for a peaceful settlement of the conflict, the release of the imprisoned FIS members as a first step, and the convening of national conference that should decide on the preconditions for parliamentary elections.

While over the past few months Algiers has repeatedly said that the ideas worked out in Rome are unacceptable, in Bonn Dembri criticized the Rome meeting only to the extent that he noted Algerians should discuss their country's future at home and not abroad. In Algeria a dialogue is currently being held that "is picking up all possible ideas that exist among all political forces, and I believe that one must encourage this dynamism of dialogue," Dembri added.

Regardless of the most recent sensational incidents—from an uprising of imprisoned fundamentalists in Algiers that was crushed bloodily to bomb attacks, to the killing of hundreds of fundamentalists near Algiers in one single devastating blow—the minister denied that the security situation in Algeria has deteriorated: "On the contrary, it has improved," Dembri claimed. Even though there are still "tensions," he is optimistic that it will be possible to reestablish "almost normal security conditions" in the foreseeable future. Dembri explained the great attention paid by other countries to individual incidents by pointing out that at a time of global information many things are incorrectly presented as elements of great tension. The question of whether presidential elections are possible at all in the current situation was answered by Dembri with the curt statement: "The elections will take place under the best possible conditions." The presidential elections should be followed by parliamentary and local elections, the minister added without giving any dates; several opposition parties have demanded that parliamentary elections should precede the presidential elections.

Dembri expressed satisfaction about the progress made with restructuring the state economy to a market economy. The agreement concluded with the IMF envisages the following main conditions of structural adjustment: stabilization of the monetary value, diversification of exports thus reducing the dependence on oil and gas (from the sale of which Algiers currently gets 98 percent of its revenues), reduction of the budget deficit, and privatization. However, the growth target of 3 percent has not been reached; because of drought and the resulting losses in agriculture, as well as because of the decline in the price for oil, a growth of only 0.2 percent has been reached, Dembri explained, who did not cite the armed conflict with the fundamentalists as a reason for the decline.

Dembri pointed out that the government wants to ease burdens. The purchasing power of broad strata is in danger; in addition, there is the danger of higher unemployment. Since last year there has been state support for those who lose their jobs. Those who are trying to get a job for the first time are also being helped.

With a view to his talks with Foreign Minister Kinkel, Interior Minister Kanther, and State Minister Pfeifer in Bonn, Dembri said that he did not talk about individual Algerians who live in Germany—Algiers had previously demanded that Bonn expel fundamentalists who have been sentenced to prison terms or to death in Algeria. The family of FIS founder Madani lives in Germany, whose

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application for asylum will be decided by the Aachen Administrative Court on 20 April; FIS foreign spokesman Rabah Kebir, whose application for asylum has not yet been decided upon either, also lives in Germany. Dembri said that in his talks, he only pointed to the international law that prohibits a citizen who has taken refuge abroad from agitating against his home country. In particular, Kebir has repeatedly called from Germany for the overthrowing of the state leadership in Algiers.

Dembri did not comment on the approximately 4,000 Algerians whom his government refuses to take back; most of them are rejected asylum-seekers who should be deported. However, the minister announced that Germany and Algeria plan to establish a joint committee to discuss these problems. In addition, Dembri demanded that a legal basis be found for consular relations "that can settle such problems." A practical problem of taking people back is, according to him, that people often claim to be Algerian even though they are not. Initial negotiations between Germany and Algeria on their return were interrupted in September and December 1994 without results. Last year 2,784 Algerians applied for asylum in Germany.

Foreign Minister Dembri Continues Visit to Germany

LD1404213795 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Current Algerian diplomatic moves have covered more than one arena. After Egypt, the UAE, Kuwait, and Britain, the diplomatic team headed by [Foreign Minister] Mr. Dembri visited Germany in the past two days to explain the government's program and discuss bilateral relations and other issues. [passage omitted]

Here is the evaluation of the visit as given by our Foreign Minister:

[Begin Dembri recording] My visit in these two days involved me in intensive talks with all the official circles which have daily relations with Algeria; that is with regard to bilateral relations. There were consular matters and we talked about these at the same time with my opposite number, Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. We talked first of all about the political project in Algeria, the return to the electoral path and the date for the presidential elections, and at the same time about the national dialogue agreement which is part of the basic information which we always must present to the partners in the cooperation process.

At the same time we talked about everything that concerns the economic reforms, particularly now when we are on the threshold of a new agreement with the IMF, a three-year agreement. Algeria needs a new arrangement concerning partnership with foreigners.

I believe that there is total understanding regarding everything that President Liamine Zeroual has said in these circumstances concerning the political project, also concerning the transitional program which is being undertaken by the present government. [end recording]

Meets With Kinkel, Officials

LD1504164195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Algerian-German relations were the focus of the talks between Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri and a number of German officials, including Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel.

In a statement following his meeting with his German counterpart, Mohamed Salah Dembri insisted that the Algerian Government is tirelessly trying to forge reconciliation with all parties and to improve the security situation in the country before holding presidential elections.

Mr. Dembri pointed out that the Algerian policy is based on a free market economy and the need to maintain political, economic, and financial stability in the country. He also referred to recent agreements with IMF and other world financial institutions. Mr. Dembri pointed out that in his meeting with German officials he had discussed the situation in the country, the government's political and economic reforms, and the means for boosting cooperation between the two countries in all spheres.

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses U.S. Aid, Nuclear Treaty

NC1704062095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that he asked for nothing from the Americans during his recent visit to Washington and his talks with the U.S. Administration and Congress.

In an interview with MAYU, the mouthpiece of the National Democratic Party, to be published on 17 April, President Mubarak said: All my talks with them were political. I explained to them all the circumstances through which the region and the world are passing. I wanted to defend the dignity of my country.

In the interview, President Mubarak told Samir Rajab, the editor in chief of MAYU, that he told Congress: I did not visit America to discuss aid. Nor did I come to make a statement. But ask me anything about your concerns and I am willing to answer all your questions and to discuss everything until we reach complete certainty. I answered all their questions with clarity and frankness.

As for U.S. aid to Egypt, President Mubarak said: I told them this is a sensitive issue. But we must understand one important thing: This aid represents a common benefit to both Egypt and the United States. You must also understand that the total amount of aid Egypt has received since aid was approved is U.S. $32 billion. But

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Egypt imported goods from the United States during this period worth $46 billion. This means you have taken back your aid and more.

In his interview with MAYU's editor in chief, President Mubarak said: I explained to Congress how the Egyptian and U.S. Governments are controlling the spending of this aid and are making sure that it goes to the set projects. The Central Auditing Office is in charge of this control. There is a similar office in the United States. If this office discovers that money has been spent in an area that is not part of the set projects, it will demand that this sum be given back to the United States. There was a case in which the U.S. side asked a ministry to reimburse money.

Touching on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], President Mubarak said he told the Americans: We have a strong position and you too have a position. Our position on the indefinite extension of the Treaty expresses our people's will. Egypt's position is legitimate and just. It was Egypt that took part in drafting the Treaty in 1968. And I was the one who presented the initiative for making the Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction. But it would be against logic, justice, and our people's will for us to sign the indefinite extension of the Treaty while Israel remains without commitments. So our stance on this Treaty is principled and will not change.

President Mubarak went on to say that this frankness was clearly effective in convincing U.S. congressmen, whose reaction was positive.

He said that Senator Paul Sarbanes, for example, replied to this explanation by saying: You explained the Egyptian stance on the NPT quite honestly and it became clear to us that it is a wise and fair one; the press did not give us this clear background to your stance. Sarbanes said: You were also frank with us with regard to the Egyptian Government's stance on human rights, when you accurately explained to us the extent of your interest in human rights in Egypt and that you personally are interested in these rights as evidenced by your saying that you, like any country where violations occur, tackle them through and within the framework of the law.

Senator Sarbanes went on to tell the president: Regarding economic reforms, you have made great strides in that direction, and we became fully convinced when we heard you detail this plan. Your readiness and willingness to discuss any issue have undoubtedly increased the credibility of your talks with us.

President Mubarak added: This positive reaction was not confined to Senator Paul Sarbanes; it came from all those I met in Congress. The reaction of the U.S. businessmen I met was similar.

Regarding the peace issue, President Mubarak said: I stressed to the Palestinians and Israelis, and keep stressing to them, that the peace process should continue, otherwise there will be a big catastrophe. I focused on the Palestinian issue lying at the core, the need to implement the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles agreement, and the need for the Palestinian Authority to be backed politically and economically so as to limit and prevent terrorism.

The president also stressed that he is urging peace efforts on the Syrian-Israeli track to be speeded up on the basis of the principle of land in return for peace.

The president discussed local issues that concern citizens. He said: A study was made with regard to the 10 percent social allowance that will be paid to state employees and pensioners with the July salaries and it found that this was adequate and in line with inflation. He stressed that the state is doing its utmost to achieve a balance between prices and wages.

On the next People's Assembly election, President Mubarak stressed his support for democracy, for strengthening its bases, and for moving it forward.

Cairo Reportedly To Abstain on NPT Renewal

NC1404211495 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] A diplomatic source in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has told AL-SHA'B that Egypt is heading toward abstaining on the renewal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], which will come up for a vote on 17 April. The source added that this stance was reached as a compromise at the end of the Egyptian-U.S. talks held in Washington. Egypt, the source added, has decided to abstain on the renewal of the treaty and to pledge to comply with the articles of the treaty if it is extended indefinitely by a majority of member states.

U.S. officials have stated in remarks to the U.S. newspapers USA TODAY and THE NEW YORK TIMES that Egypt, which had turned down a U.S. request to vote for renewing the treaty, had promised not to withdraw from it and to comply with the treaty. It also promised not to rally the Arab states or form a lobby against the treaty in exchange for $1.7 billion in unused aid funds from the past two years. Congress members have been calling for canceling these funds on the grounds that Egypt does not need them!

The U.S. President and Secretary of State Christopher have described Egypt's stance linking its signature on the treaty to that of Israel as a "fatal mistake." The U.S. officials supported the Zionist position, adding that Israel will sign the treaty when a comprehensive peace in the region is attained!

Despite the importance of the Egyptian position—which so far is to reject the renewal of the treaty—the U.S. Administration has made this position ambiguous. It has managed to lobby the support of more than 90 countries

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out of 173 signatories for renewal of the treaty. The treaty's articles stipulate that all member states, even those that do not endorse its renewal, must comply with it once 50 percent of the member states agree to renew it.

According to Hans Blix, president of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the only way for Egypt to reject the treaty is to officially request to withdraw from it. At the beginning of the crisis, Egypt threatened to withdraw, but the concessions started in Japan, which put economic pressures on Egypt. At his meeting with President Clinton, President Mubarak reaffirmed this stance by saying that Egypt is one of the founders and supporters of the treaty.

Al-Baz: U.S. Not Exerting Pressure for NPT

NC1504122195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—Senator Hank Brown, chairman of the Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs sub- committee of the U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, stated that during his meeting today with President Husni Mubarak he discussed many important issues dealing with the situation in the Middle East and progress in the peace talks. [passage omitted]

On his part, Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, affirmed that during his meeting with President Mubarak, the U.S. senator showed his clear understanding of the Egyptian viewpoint regarding regional and international issues that were discussed, as well as bilateral relations and the need to develop them to realize the mutual interests of Egypt and the United States.

He said that President Mubarak discussed the peace march and concentrated on the need to show special interest in the Palestinian track, as well as finalizing the various rings of action in order to transfer authority from Israel to the Palestinians, particularly since this issue is, to a large extent, what defines the credibility of the peace process on all tracks.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz said that discussions also dealt with the Egyptian stance on extending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. He pointed out that there is U.S. understanding of Egypt's wise and positive stance, which is based on the fact that Egypt wants the security arrangements in the region to be stable, firm, and balanced among all parties.

Al-Baz affirmed that Egypt is not opposed to the treaty and that it supports its global nature and wants all countries to join it so that they become stable. And so long as we are talking about economic cooperation and activities in the environment and other fields, then security must undoubtedly be provided for all.

Al-Baz affirmed once again that there is no Egyptian-U.S. conflict over the NPT. We believe that the NPT is important and necessary, and we are asking that all world countries join the NPT without exception, he said.

Answering a question on the presence of U.S. pressure on Egypt to accept the indefinite extension of the NPT, al-Baz denied the presence of such U.S. pressure. He said: The United States told us that it is very interested in extending the application of the treaty indefinitely, but that it does not intend to apply any pressure, particularly since we support extending the treaty and are not opposed to it. However, we want all countries to join it, particularly Israel, but the main conflict is over the Israeli nuclear program.

Regarding Egypt's stance on the current Egyptian-Israeli talks on the NPT, Dr. al-Baz said that contacts are under way and we hope to revive them. We also hope that negotiations acquire an official and stable character. He confirmed that Egypt will not take any positions before learning the result of these contacts. He said: We will not take a stance which is not based on sound foundations and an objective evaluation of the situation from all perspectives.

Al-Baz affirmed that Egypt hopes that positive progress will take place from Israel's side before the date for voting on the NPT because, he says: We want all nuclear weapons and mass-destruction weapons, including chemical and biological weapons, to be removed from the Middle East region. He said that the continuing danger from the Israeli nuclear program threatens the region with a dangerous race for nuclear and other arms, which is what threatens the security of the region in general.

Al-Baz Views Peace Process, NPT, U.S. Ties

NC1704095595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 17 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that it is incumbent upon every faction of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza to stop the operations, which are bound to increase the burdens on the Palestinian Authority [PA] and deprive citizens of the chance to improve their standard of living.

In an interview with AL-MANAR published today, al-Baz said it is the PA's duty to maintain security and order. It is quite inconceivable that the operations should be carried out at a stage in which there is a recession and the liquidation of occupation. Dr. al-Baz stressed the importance of Arab rapprochement and unity of rank, noting that Arab rapprochement does not necessarily mean a threat to U.S. and Western interests.

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Continuing, Dr. al-Baz maintained that Egypt is calling for making the world free of weapons of mass destruction. Calling on Israel to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] does not mean embarrassing or weakening the Israeli Government. Rather it is to strengthen security and stability in the region.

In his interview, Dr. al-Baz warned of the consequences of delaying the implementation of the Oslo Accord on the peace process. He said Israel's continuing measures to Judaize Jerusalem will complicate the Jerusalem issue. He called for cooperation and understanding between Palestine and Jordan far from any sensitivity. He said that any differences, if there are any, must be resolved at a negotiating table and with complete frankness and clarity. Dr. al-Baz stressed the importance of Syria's role in the peace process and the need to work out a settlement on the Syrian track.

Dr. al-Baz said: There is no dispute between Egypt and the United States. He urged Israel to take part in negotiations on the NPT. We do not intend to embarrass Israel, but we want to promote security and stability. There are no longer cordon states around Israel and Israel is no longer in a sea of Arab enmity.

Musa Hopes Israel Changes Stance on Nuclear Arms

NC1504155395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt hopes that Israel will change its stand in a positive way, either in regard to the ongoing contacts with it or in regard to its stance on nuclear weapons.

In a statement today, Musa said the Middle East region cannot tolerate the existence of a nuclear program outside the framework of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] because this destabilizes the region and raises questions about nuclear arms in the region.

Musa indicated that the issue of nuclear arms in the region will remain the subject of contacts by Egypt even after the international conference on the extension of the NPT—which will open in New York on 18 April—winds up its work. He said "the conference is one thing and this is something else."

Musa Hopes All Sanctions on Iraq Will Be Lifted

NC1504160895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1459 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has expressed the hope that the UN Security Council resolution issued yesterday permitting Iraq to sell some of its oil will contribute to easing the suffering of the Iraqi people.

In a statement today, Musa said undoubtedly the resolution is a step toward lifting the sanctions against Iraq in return for the full implementation of the Security Council resolutions. He added that Egypt hopes that the sanctions will be completely lifted in light of the report by Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission on the removal of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Asked about the ongoing meetings of high-level nonaligned states officials in New York, Musa said the meetings are continuing to coordinate the Nonaligned Movement's stance on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

On the Lockerbie crisis between Libya and the West, he said "we are holding contacts regarding it."

Musa Explains Cairo's Stance on NPT Extension

NC1604174895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that Egypt's stance on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] remains unchanged.

The foreign minister issued a statement today, saying that Egypt's stance is based on the fact that it is a signatory of the NPT and that the issue requires universal commitment.

He added that universality means everyone should adhere to the same thing and no country should be given privileges over the others. There cannot be some countries that adhere to the NPT and others that do not, because such a situation will lead to a massive imbalance in security and in the regional and international order.

The foreign minister said that Egypt's stance stems from the fact that it is a member in the NPT and that it cares about preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and about the NPT, despite the latter's shortcomings.

'Amr Musa said that Egypt will clarify this during the New York meetings, which will convene tomorrow, Monday. They will discuss the treaty and its shortcomings. Egypt will also express its concerns regarding the nuclear situation in the Middle East. He added that this will continue to be the Egyptian stance, and it will be the deciding factor in our vote.

He said that Egypt cannot agree to allow any country to be excused from signing the NPT. Egypt will insist on the importance of all sides' adherence to these commitments, because distinctions regarding commitments are not acceptable to Egypt.

He added that Egypt believes the Middle East is entering a new stage of peace which must be based on stability, cooperation, normal relations, and mutual commitments to banning arms, weapons of mass destruction, and the spread of nuclear weapons.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa clarified that there will be no treaty signing there, but there will be a vote on its future validity. He said Egypt is asking Israel to sign the NPT.

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He stressed that Egypt will continue to make this demand.

Asked whether there has been a change in the Israeli stance, 'Amr Musa said that so far there has been no change.

He expressed his belief that the Israelis understand well that the Egyptian stance is a strategic stance based on dealing with an existing problem, and that Egypt wants the whole Middle East to be free of nuclear weapons.

He said that this stance cannot be explained as being for or against a certain state. The Egyptian stance goes along with the future of the region's security, which cannot be safe if there is a nuclear program operating outside the international framework.

On the meeting between ranking officials from the nonaligned countries and the preparatory committee of the conference which was held in New York, 'Amr Musa said that there are numerous viewpoints and that many countries have their own stances on the indefinite extension. The issue cannot be viewed from the regional perspective only, although this is considered an important perspective. It also must be viewed from the perspective of the NPT itself and the nuclear countries' commitments to the nonnuclear countries. There is also the issue of assurances. These points create different stances among the nuclear and nonnuclear countries.

'Amr Musa clarified that the interests of both sides, the nuclear and nonnuclear countries, are opposed and we need to reach a position that takes into consideration the interests of both sides.

He said that logically, the nonnuclear countries cannot follow the course that the nuclear countries want. The nuclear countries have their own interests and the nonnuclear countries have different interests. Negotiations have to take place until we agree over the situation which best serves the interests of both sides within the framework of banning the spread of nuclear weapons, coupled with the issue of the universality of the treaty.

Regarding Arab coordination on the treaty, the foreign minister said that Arab coordination is clearly reflected in the recent Arab League decision on this treaty.

Omani Information Minister Arrives on Visit

NC1504171395 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas arrived in Cairo this evening on a three-day visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Al-Rawwas said he will convey a verbal message from Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id to President Husni Mubarak. He said that Egyptian-Omani relations are fraternal relations. He explained that Egypt and Oman agree on the political and strategic line and that they share the same aspirations and suffering. He said we are looking forward to deepening bilateral cooperation on information.

Regarding the UN Security Council resolution permitting Iraq to export a some of its oil, al-Rawwas said the Sultanate of Oman was one of the states which sponsored the draft resolution with the aim of easing the Iraqi people's suffering. He invited the Iraqis to accept this resolution.

Paper Welcomes Resolution Allowing Iraq To Sell Oil

NC1504071895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—AL-WAFD welcomes in its editorial today the Security Council resolution to allow Iraq to sell part of its oil as a good step toward ending the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people which has suffered greatly from the actions of Baghdad's ruling regime.

It says that this resolution provides an opening for ending the Lockerbie crisis which has entered its third year and which has kept the Libyan people imprisoned within its territories suffering from isolation and the blockade imposed by the super powers. It expresses hope that Washington will abandon its threats so as to create the conditions for reaching a solution to this problem.

The paper calls on Baghdad's rulers to abandon their intransigence and deal positively with the Security Council resolutions so as to lift all the other sanctions imposed on the Iraqi people.

Paper: Country Satisfied With UN Resolution on Iraq

NC1604072995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0607 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper says Egypt received with satisfaction the Security Council's resolution authorizing Iraq to sell $2 billion worth of oil to meet the Iraqi people's food and medicine needs.

In its editorial today, the paper praises Egypt's efforts to put an end to the Iraqi people's suffering, noting that this was one of the topics in President Mubarak's talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The paper says that the Gulf war ended with a severe defeat for Saddam Husayn and a bill of losses and destruction being paid by the Iraqi people. Egypt has always been eager to assert that Arab interest requires the protection of the Iraqi nation, which is not to blame for its leadership's actions.

Papers Assail Nuclear Powers' 'Arbitrary' Conduct

NC1704075095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—The newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH

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assert that an indefinite extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] infringes on the rights of non-nuclear countries and deprives them of guarantees against nuclear blackmail. The newspapers note that such an extension will give privileged treatment to the nuclear states by exempting them from any commitment to halt nuclear tests or begin serious negotiations on nuclear disarmament, as the Treaty originally required.

The two newspapers maintain that the eternal extension of the Treaty is a form of arbitrary conduct by the major powers designed to impose their hegemony on smaller countries.

Under the headline "The World's Conscience Faces its Muscle," AL-AHRAM says the East-West arms race was the direct cause of the establishment of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] after the 1955 Bandung conference.

Noting that the representatives of 108 nonaligned countries will meet in Bandung next week to discuss the Treaty's extension, the paper declares that this new conference represents NAM's second birth, although many people questioned the movement's raison d'etre after the former Soviet Union's collapse.

AL-AHRAM says: NAM returns today to lead the world's conscience against the major powers' arbitrary plan to impose an everlasting extension of the NPT.

Under the headline "A Hard Test," AL-JUMHURIYAH says the small countries that comprise the majority of the United Nations' members are facing intensive pressure by the nuclear club states to accept the Treaty's indefinite extension.

It adds that the non-nuclear countries are loudly proclaiming their fear that the nuclear countries will not abide by their pledges. Noting that the nuclear countries are still seeking to enlarge their nuclear arsenals regardless of the changing conditions of the new world order, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that their declared willingness to offer protection to non-nuclear countries against any nuclear aggression is merely hypothetical.

The paper says it is now clear that the extension of the Treaty will become the primary issue of discussion worldwide until 10 May, when a vote will be taken to extend the Treaty for a specific period or indefinitely.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Anniversary of 'Failed Aggression'

LD1504183395 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1152 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brothers in the Arab homeland, we will now relay the full recording of the important historic speech delivered by [Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar] al-Qadhdhafi on the 9th anniversary of the American-NATO barbaric and failed aggression against the Great Jamahariyah.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] On this painful anniversary, we want to stress our strong determination to steadfast and resist forever. This painful anniversary brought about one of our brave and steadfast stances, and shame, failure, and defeat to the forces of arrogance that violate and scorn people's rights. [passage omitted]

What took place was the opposite to what America and its barbaric and dictatorial allies intended. They wanted to isolate the Libyan people, but with that unjust and barbaric raid all the whole world, including America and British peoples, stood by the Libyan people and will continue to do so and thus, the forces of aggression were isolated, defeated, and humiliated. [passage omitted]

We believe that they mounted this barbaric raid to make personal gains and fulfill imperialist ambitions. It was a lesson for them and a very important turning point in international policy after they became certain that aggression, the fleets, and the use of the fleets does not bend the people's resolve to live free on the soil of their fathers and forefathers under the sun.

For 10 years America flexed its military muscles in the Mediterranean against a small people like the Libyan people. They thought that this people could be put in chains and would submit, or be frightened and scared. Subsequently, America advocated the use of the same method against other peoples. If this could ever happen then the universal world policy will be the policy of flexing the muscles and intimidating the people with the fleets and military power.

However, when this barbaric raid was destroyed on this soil the raid never bent the will of the Libyan people from forging ahead along the path that they had found through the revolution.

It has become certain today, that that policy failed and they had to reexamine it. This is what happened. The American people cast their votes with a big majority, or those who attended or want to pass the time by playing the elections game in America against the Second World War generation, against those who committed this massacre against children. They gave their votes to a new generation who had a new mentality that they thought was democratic and that would not put American interests at risk—risks to be taken for personal, imperialist, and trivial reasons.

Consequently, we [?were pleased] by the step taken by the so-called democrats in America and the American president who slapped the policy of the imperialists and reduced the defense budget by half. This led to the end of the American military bases abroad that used to break the back of the American taxpayer who had to finance the continuation of this policy of imperialism. That policy brought nothing except losses. This also led to taking half of the American bombers out of service. A huge naval

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power has also been decommissioned, as well as abolishing the SDI program that was an everlasting preoccupation of America during the time of the dictator Reagan.

The steadfastness of the Libyan people is clear on this day as are the visible losses that they suffered from this raid, but the Libyan people have continued on their path without being scared by these desperate attempts. Many, especially among the leaders of the imperialist Western states, have become convinced that peoples cannot be vanquished and subjugated through these means. They have realized that peoples are stronger than the fleets of the imperialist states, and that it is the right of peoples that will be victorious in the battle over the forces of oppression and aggression.

(?We bear witness) we are here now, nine years after this barbaric attack in which all the resources of NATO and all the resources of the great Western nations were used, they prepared for it for a long time and the most modern weapons were manufactured to carry it out. They pinned their hopes on the attack—that it would end the era of peoples' resistance and steadfastness, terrorize all those struggling for freedom, and open up the way for the oppressive hosts of imperialism to crush the sacred ground of other peoples.

But the abject failure of this barbaric raid to attain its end confused these nations and consequently confused this policy. It increased our self-confidence and our confidence in our firm and steadfast position. It increased our confidence that aggression will not last; it is the struggle of peoples that will last. It is the right of peoples that will last, the life of peoples that will last. [chanting of slogans]

If America has really abandoned the policy of the generation of World War II and the costly and failed adventures, then this is its business and that will mean that it has returned to the right path as far as its people are concerned and saved its funds and efforts so as to devote them to the social prosperity of its people. We will say this to America: If it changes, we will change. They themselves said that this was a savage action that started with the laying of mines on the beaches of an independent state called Nicaragua, and before that there was the disaster of American involvement in the Vietnam War, and the costs sustained by the American people for the defense of what they call Israel and that do not yield any benefit to the American people and the American taxpayer. In addition to that, one should mention America's previous attempts to create lackeys everywhere and spend on them the taxes paid by the American citizen. They realized after that that mining Nicaragua's beaches was a stupid action and did not lead to any benefit. The American parliament did not approve it and it was shown to the world that America is a dictatorial state and that the decision to mine an independent state was a reckless action that made some ships of a number of states, including America's friends, incur losses. It emerged that the American president and the head of the American intelligence were the only ones who decided and implemented that stupid action. When it was submitted to the American House of Representatives and the Senate, there were 84 votes against and 12 votes for. That is, 12 members of the U.S. Senate approved the mining, whereas 84 members opposed it, naturally after the mining took place. It was approved by 100 representatives and 280 opposed it.

What America had done so far, beginning with the mining of the sea around Nicaragua to the raid on Libya, was a cowardly and a vile act that was no different from planting a bomb in a public restaurant or laying a trap to an innocent person unaware of what was going on around him.

The following fact has been admitted by the Americans themselves. The number of files and meetings [held by American officials] on how to deal best with Libya and al-Qadhdhafi were more than any files or meetings held on any other topic in the history of America. And of course, the fact that a small people like ours has aroused more interest in America than any of its opponent should be a matter for pride for us.

Hence, Libya has aroused the interest of American officials more than the former Soviet Union. A large number of people and equipment were devoted to gather information and to keep al-Qadhdhafi under permanent scrutiny. His movement, his journeys inside the desert, his codes for diplomatic contacts, his telephone conversations were all kept under closer watch. The [former] CIA chief was always wondering what al-Qadhdhafi's plans were for the week.

This used to be the main preoccupation of the great state on earth. A fact that should rather prove that it was really no more than the meanest state on earth at that time.

I believe, however, that previous lessons, blows, losses, major failures, shameful [policies], and defeats should be enough to convince America to forge a new policy [toward Libya] in order to avoid all the shortcomings of its previous stupid policies.

This is what we call Locker A, which we could never cross to Locker B. We will put the Security Council before its responsibilities to make sure whether the Security Council was America, Britain, and France, or the international Security Council. If it was the international Security Council, which implemented the UN Charter, signed by all the nations and did not distinguish between large and small nations, prevented the use of force in international dealings, protected the independence of peoples, safeguarded their sovereignty, and preserved world peace...[sentence incomplete] This is the Charter that, we as peoples, have accepted. [passage omitted]

If the Security Council was an international Security Council for the UN, not a council for America, Britain, and France, but for the united nations, among whom is the Libyan people, and others.

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We put it before its responsibilities, and it will then be in a critical position, to prove that it is a council for the United Nations, not a council for the United Nations Organization, and not a council for the three united nations, America, Britain, and France.

We can never keep silent about this raid, and the victims' families can never keep silent. They have the right to avenge themselves if the UN did not do that for them. This is logical and legitimate.

The Libyan citizen, whose wife, daughter, and sons were killed by those, and the sons, whose mothers and fathers they killed and whose houses they demolished, cannot forgive or forget that action. The Security Council must discuss that issue. If the latter has a link with Lockerbie, then it is a dangerous [word indistinct].

Why did America accuse Libya of Lockerbie? It did so because it said that an unjust raid took place against the Libyan people and consequently the Libyans took revenge by downing the Pan-Am plane over Lockerbie because the Libyan people faced an unjust aggression, and a false accusation was proved to be so and the Libyan people were proved innocent of that and consequently they had the right to take revenge.

The Libyan people had previously said that we will use our simple methods in the face of aggression and these will be like a small virus that attacks a huge body and destroys it. We said to them: We are like small pebbles in a huge machine, like a small object in the eye. We might be a small thing, but this small thing will be painful. The Libyan people had previously made such statements and they [the U.S.] based their actions on that and said: We carried out an unjust attack and killed tens of children, women in Libya and destroyed tens of houses in Tripoli and Benghazi and consequently, the Libyans are the ones who carried out that operation. As long as this is the American thinking, the investigation must start with the issue of the American raid on a day like today. We should move from A to B. This is Locker A, and the Pan-Am affair is Locker B. We cannot move to B before dealing with A. We can never abandon this issue.

We welcome the submission of any problem to the United Nations. This is the right thing, despite the fact that the downing of the Pan-Am plane is a civilian and individual action that was not carried out by a state. No state claimed responsibility for that, and the investigation did not prove that a state carried out that action officially and, up until now, the person who carried out that action is still unknown. Despite all this, this is the case being dealt with by the Security Council in spite of its nature of being a civilian action that has nothing to do with the United Nations. It was, however, transferred to the Security Council and we welcomed that despite the nature of that action that has nothing to do with the Security Council. We welcomed that, considering that any international problem should be transferred to the Security Council. A dispute between Libya and America is thus transferred to the Security Council. We welcome that, and we still adhere to the UN Charter and this style that insists on considering that the UN is the one that deals with disputes between nations.

That was an official aggression against Libya by America and Britain, it was an unjust and unjustified aggression, and there is nothing left for us but to adhere to the UN Charter, just like the style they followed in the Lockerbie case by transferring it to the Security Council, there is nothing left for us but to transfer this case to the Security Council. If the latter refuses to look into this case, then on what justification does the Security Council agree to discuss Lockerbie? How can it reject this case and accept the other one? How can it reject A and accept B? This is Locker A and the other one is Locker B. [chanting of slogans]

Why did they carry out such a raid in 1986? One should ask this question first. Why did they accuse Libya of involvement in Lockerbie? The answer was because Libya was the subject of a raid.

But why was the raid on Libya carried out? The answer was because Libya was behind the bombing of the night club at Berlin where 282 American soldiers were dancing.

We said alright. But why should Libya bomb the night club In Berlin if one should accept their argument? The answer was because America attacked Libya in the Gulf of Sirte. OK, but then this looks like a chain reaction of events.

Therefore, let us accept that there was an American aggression against Libya in the Gulf of Sirte. According to America, Libya's reaction to the aggression was to bomb the night club in Berlin. As consequence of this, they carried out their raid on Libya. Libya reacted by bombing the Pan-Am plane. [If the events were as such] why should we take only one link in the chain and discuss it at the UN Security Council, i.e. Lockerbie. We should begin by examining the aggression against the Gulf of Sirte.

Let us examine the bombing of the night club Berlin and find out who was behind it. It could be Libya and it could be someone else. We are not trying here, however, to pass judgement; we should leave it to investigation by either America or Libya. Really, it does not matter.

We should investigate why such a raid was carried out on Libya. And If Libya was really behind the crash of the Pan-Am aircraft over Lockerbie, we should also ask why.

The time has come for the UN Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities.

However, we are not angry, nor are we rejecting the idea of referring all the above cases to the Security Council. On the contrary, we will welcome such a development. We would like to see all international disputes referred to the Security Council. And we would to see the UN charter applied here, because we know that we will win our case.

America knows that all its crimes during the Reagan era were the brain child of a sick man. The only thing,

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however, that makes such crimes and abuses a lesser crime today is the fact they were carried out by a man—Reagan has himself admitted this fact—who is suffering from Alzheimer's disease, which is an incurable disease and leads eventually to insanity.

Therefore, this means that Reagan was at time suffering from an early stage of this disease. Therefore, I do not think the Libyan attorney general should continue to insist that Reagan face criminal charges; he is no longer sane. He is suffering from a disease that will eventually make him insane. Reagan has himself admitted this fact. And you should be able to read his statement in the local press. The Libyan press should publish it in their front pages as soon as it is made available to them.

The second man who used to exercise dictatorial powers alongside Reagan and showed contempt to the U.S. Congress and the American people was the former head of his intelligence, [former CIA Director William] Casey. This person has also died from brain-related diseases. This means that he was also suffering at the time from the same disease.

Just look at the sick minds that used to control America and behave in such a way. The regrettable thing is, however, the fact that American agents in the Arab homeland used to support the acts of those insane people, thinking that there was nothing wrong with Reagan or Casey, unaware that one day their master, Reagan, would be suffering from Alzheimer's disease, and Casey was suffering from a brain tumor. [passage omitted]

We call on the Security Council to investigate the horrible crime, this massacre, which was perpetrated against our children and while we were on our soil. We do not fear investigation into the battles of the Gulf of Sirte, the bombing of the discotheque in Berlin, or the downing of the Pan-Am plane, including this raid. We never fear any investigation carried out by the United Nations.

In the end, we proclaim our determination to resist until the day of resurrection and (?will not accept) that America be God on earth. We proclaim our determination to resist, and more than 1 million Libyans are ready to fight all along the Libyan coast and to turn the desert, sand, mountains, and Libyan waters into fire. We are ready to fight even if this fighting continues until the day of resurrection. Our struggle continues and let shame and defeat fall on the imperialists and cowards. [end recording]

Sudan

Reportage, Reaction to Iranian Speaker's Visit

Meets With Foreign Minister

EA1404220095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Eminence Hojjat ol-Eslam Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Iranian Islamic Consultative Assembly, met at his residence in Khartoum yesterday Mr. Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, the foreign minister, in the presence of Dr. Hoseyn Shaykh ol-Eslam, the Iranian deputy foreign minister. They discussed relations between the two countries.

Shaykh Nateq-Nuri affirmed that the time was ripe for comprehensive cooperation between the two countries despite the attempts of the enemies of the Islamic nation to sow discord among its peoples.

The foreign minister affirmed that Sudan would strive to consolidate the relations for the sake of joint action. He commended Iran's positive role in international forums and affirmed that the views of the two countries on efforts to promote their relations were identical. He gave a detailed briefing on peace efforts in Sudan and on the role being performed by the IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] group.

His eminence also met Brigadier Retd. Salah al-Din Karrar, the minister of energy and mining, who briefed him in detail on his ministry's efforts to promote its performance in the fields of energy, mining and oil prospecting, noting that the country possessed considerable oil resources.

Shaykh Nateq-Nuri met Mr. 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, minister of culture and information, who said in a press statement for our reporter that the common concerns for the orientation of the Islamic media in Sudan and Iran and their efforts to confront the anti-Islamic onslaught had been discussed. He said they had discussed ways of establishing infrastructures to confront such attacks. It was agreed to activate the media to enable them to fulfill their mission. He said the Iranian cultural center in Khartoum was performing optimally and that a Sudanese center would open in Iran.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri also met Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il, secretary general of the International Popular Friendship Council, who told our reporter that the meeting had been positive. Various issues affecting the Islamic world had been discussed, with particular reference to Iran and Sudan leadership of a cultural plan to unite the peoples and resources of the Islamic nation.

Meanwhile, the Iranian-Sudanese joint committee held a meeting at the Transitional National Assembly last night. The Sudanese side was led by Mr. Musa Husayn Dirar, member of the National Assembly, while the Iranian side was led by Dr. Isa Moqaddamizadeh, member of the Iranian Islamic Consultative Assembly and chairman of the Iranian-Sudanese Brotherhood Society. The committee discussed ways of activating the agreements signed between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Talks 'Positive, Constructive'

EA1504170095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Eminence Hojjat ol-Eslam wa al-Muslimin Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the

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Iranian Consultative Assembly, has confirmed that the Sudanese and Iranian sides have agreed to create a mechanism for confronting the challenges to which the two countries are exposed, since they are states following a civilizational plan based on Islam.

His Eminence Hojjat ol-Eslam wa al-Muslimin, at a news conference this evening at the Friendship Hall, described discussions between the two sides as positive and constructive, and said they had contributed to activating the agreements and protocols concluded between the two countries in the political, economic, social, and cultural fields. The speaker of the Iranian Consultative Assembly added that regional and international issues had been discussed. He added that views on many issues had coincided.

Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, renewed his welcome to the country's visiting guest and the delegation accompanying him. He said Iranian-Sudanese relations were developing and were based on strategic aims. Mr. 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, the culture and information minister, said Sudan and Iran were facing a vicious imperialist onslaught by the powers of world arrogance, because of their Islamic orientation.

Communique Issued

EA1504172795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A joint Sudanese-Iranian communique was issued in Khartoum today, following the official five-day visit of His Eminence Hojjat ol-Eslam Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Iranian Islamic Consultative Assembly, to the country. The communique was signed by Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, the speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, and the visiting guest.

The two sides stressed the role of parliamentary consultation in the Islamic system for legislation, in accordance with the injunctions of Islamic law. They agreed to exchange experience between the legislative assemblies of the two countries. They also stressed the importance of convening the joint ministerial committee regularly, in order to provide well-studied solutions to issues of joint cooperation.

The two sides agreed that the ongoing war in southern Sudan was one of the conspiracies of the powers of arrogance aimed at damaging the integrity of Sudan. The two sides confirmed the unity and integrity of the people of Sudan and their territory, and Sudan's exercise of its sovereignty over all its territory. The communique commended the efforts to entrench the pillars of peace from within the country.

The two sides considered the so-called peace negotiations in the Middle East region as an attempt to entrench the Israeli entity. They agreed on the liberation of Jerusalem.

The joint Sudanese-Iranian communique called for measures which would ensure the banning of the production and stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction in all parts of the world. They considered a Middle East free of them to be a prerequisite for the achievement of peace and security in the region.

The communique asked the international community not to use double standards in its dealings. It should stay away from selectivity [al-intaqa'iyah], force the Zionist entity to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty on nuclear weapons, and force it to accept international supervision.

The communique stressed the importance of regional cooperation to create an atmosphere of understanding and stability between neighbors. Differences should be settled by dialogue and peaceful means to prevent foreign intervention. They also stressed the importance of the principle of collective cooperation for the states of the region to preserve the security of the gulf. They expressed the conviction of the two countries that any foreign intervention would only disturb the peace and stability of the region as well as the important and strategic waterway.

The communique appealed to the Muslim nation to be vigilant against attempts by world arrogance, [as heard] which is calling for the distortion of the image of Islam, and to resist its vicious onslaughts.

Opposition Warns Against Agreements

NC1504170995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1632 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—Faruq Abu-'Isa, secretary general of the Arab Bar Association and one of the leaders of the Sudanese opposition National Democratic Grouping, has warned against the extreme dangers that the Sudanese-Iranian agreements recently signed in Khartoum entail.

In a statement today, Abu-'Isa said these agreements will strengthen terrorism and extremism in the region. He added that these agreements will enable Iran to obtain military and naval facilities in Port Sudan and will strengthen the presence of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard in Sudan. They will then transfer their ugly examination and torture methods to the Sudanese security authorities.

Abu-'Isa said the agreements also envisage the formation of a joint Sudanese-Iranian intelligence committee to exchange expertise and information, strengthen the Sudanese regime's ability to confront its opponents, export terrorism abroad, and build more terrorist training camps. In addition, eight cultural centers for spreading the ideas of the Iranian Revolution will be set up in Sudan.

Abu-'Isa appealed to the international community to act to avert these dangers, noting that the Sudanese people are suffering from a grinding economic crisis.

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Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Meets al-Bashir

EA1404203695 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, met at the guest house this morning (Viktor Bosvaluka), the visiting Russian deputy foreign minister, in the presence of Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, minister of the presidency of the Republic; Bishop Gabriel Rorich, minister of state at the Foreign Ministry; and Mr. Mahdi Ibrahim, minister of state at the presidency of the Republic.

The Russian official said the current state of relations between Sudan and Russia, and international, Arab and African issues had been discussed. Also discussed was the importance of promoting bilateral trade and economic relations, which he described as being below the required level despite an existing potential for rectifying these relations. The Russian deputy foreign minister said it had been agreed to deepen and to find ways of promoting political dialogue between the two countries. He said Lt. Gen. al-Bashir had briefed him on Sudan's policy toward current regional and international issues.

Views Expanding Ties With Minister

EA1504191495 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, met at his office in the ministry today Russian Deputy Foreign Minister (Viktor Bosvaluka). The meeting discussed bilateral relations and the need to open wider areas of cooperation, as well as the importance of comprehensive political dialogue to learn about the available resources for cooperation, and to remove the obstacles preventing cooperation. The meeting also dealt with the problem of the south and the efforts being made to find a political solution for it. The Russian deputy foreign minister gave a detailed briefing on the problem of Chechnya, and expressed the hope that a satisfactory solution would be found.

Meanwhile, Bishop Gabriel Rorich, minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, received the Russian deputy foreign minister. Rorich briefed him fully on the government's efforts to establish peace in the country within the framework of federalism, which could absorb all the aspirations of the Sudanese people. His excellency also touched on peaceful coexistence and religious tolerance in the country, the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development initiative, and Sudan's relations with neighboring countries, particularly Uganda.

The Russian deputy foreign minister spoke about the problems facing the Russian Federation, in particular the issue of Chechnya. The Russian minister (?accepted) Sudan's policy based on the need for the integrity and security of its territory and its interest in attaining a peaceful solution to the southern problem. He said that the Western media attack to which Sudan was being subjected was the same as that to which the Russian Federation was being subjected.

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Bahrain

Ministry Cited on Release of 120 Seized During Unrest

NC1704102095 Paris AFP in English 0803 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, April 17 (AFP)—Bahrain on Monday [17 April] announced it had released 120 people arrested in a wave of unrest which has swept the Gulf archipelago in the past months, local papers reported.

"Bahrain has released 120 Bahrainis detainees after completing the investigation into their involvement in recent violent subversive activities," an interior ministry official said in the reports.

Violent clashes erupted in early December after the arrest of Shiite Moslem cleric Shaykh 'Ali Salman who had called for political reforms and the restoration of parliament suspended in 1975.

He was later deported and fled to London where he has requested political asylum.

The human rights group Amnesty International said in a report released at the end of March that it had the names of 700 people detained in the emirate since December, but believed many more were being held.

Most of those held are Shiites, Amnesty said.

Exiled opposition groups said that more than 3,000 people had been arrested in sporadic violence which has flared in the emirate since December.

Dissident Cleric Imprisoned for Outspoken Views

NC1504174495 Paris AFP in English 1405 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, April 15 (AFP)—The authorities in Bahrain on Saturday [15 April] imprisoned a dissident Shiite Moslem cleric who has been under house arrest for the last two weeks because of his political views, his family and opposition leaders said.

In a statement sent to AFP in Nicosia, the exiled opposition Movement for the Liberation of Bahrain said the authorities took Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir al-Jamri Saturday to Al-Qal'ah prison in Manama, "where hundreds of detainees have been tortured because of their political beliefs."

The shaykh's son, Shaykh Mansur al-Jamri, who is in exile in London, also said his father had been taken to the prison from his home in Bani Jamrah, five kilometres (three miles) west of Manama.

However, a government official speaking on condition of anonymity said al-Jamri was "under house arrest at another location" and was still allowed to see his family.

"Keeping Shaykh al-Jamri at Bani Jamrah could have disrupted life in the village," the official said, without specifying where the cleric was being held.

The shaykh, 55, was one of the leading signatories of a petition in November calling for the restoration of parliament, suspended in 1975. He was an MP from 1973-1975.

Bahraini police shot dead at least two protesters and wounded several others when they went to arrest him two weeks ago.

There has been sporadic violence in Bahrain since early December when a leading Shiite cleric, Shaykh 'Ali Salman, was arrested and eventually expelled after calling for the restoration of parliament.

Tehran Radio Interviews Opposition Figure

NC1504195995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Apr 95

[Telephone interview with Majid al-'Alawi, member of the Executive Committee of the Islamic Liberation Movement of Bahrain, by unidentified Tehran Radio correspondent; from the "News and Reports" Feature; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] There is certain information that demonstrations have occurred in Bahrain calling for the release of prisoners. How much do you know about this issue?

[Al-'Alawi] According to reports from the homeland, the events are still going on and the citizens continue to demand that all the articles of the constitution which have been suspended since 1975 be restored. The citizens also demand that elections be held to elect a national assembly. The issue of the prisoners and detainees, particularly the women and children, is delicate and serious. We believe that this issue must be resolved as a part of an all- embracing political solution.

[Correspondent] Mr. Majid al-'Alawi, the Bahraini Government has started to accuse some neighboring countries of being responsible for the events and it claims that they are training members of the Bahraini opposition. What is your opinion?

[Al-'Alawi] According to my information, the government has not officially accused any country of supporting the uprising. The uprising is carried out by the Bahraini people in view of the existing problems resulting from the bad relations between the ruler and the people. There is no official accusation by the government against any foreign state, although at the beginning of the events some media organs tried to insinuate that the events were supported by foreign aid. However, this is no longer being said; the state has admitted that the events are internal. The media tried hard to keep these insinuations alive, but there is no official accusation.

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[Correspondent] Mr. al-'Alawi, Shaykh Ja'far Bin-'Ali al-Mubarak has been arrested in Saudi Arabia. Is this issue related in some way or another to the spate of arrests in Bahrain?

[Al-'Alawi] I believe that what is going on in Saudi Arabia concerns only Saudi Arabia. I do not think there is a direct link between the two events. However, the continuing disturbances in Bahrain will undoubtedly extend to the neighboring countries and will create some instability. The demonstrators and opposition in Bahrain have assured the neighboring Gulf states that the ongoing events are not directed at them. At any rate, the demands of the other Gulf nations are similar to the demands of the Bahraini people—which can be summed up as a constitutional system.

[Correspondent] Did the assurances that you gave to the Arab Gulf states receive any positive responses?

[Al-'Alawi] Yes.

[Correspondent] How?

[Al-'Alawi] Some Gulf states are well aware now, as we heard from some officials there, that this is an internal issue and that the Bahraini people suffer from many problems. In addition to the absence of a constitutional and parliamentary system, there are well over 30,000 unemployed people. There are also the problems of corruption and other domestic problems. In fact, many Gulf states are very much annoyed by the violent method with which the authorities dealt with the demonstrators. There are certain known lines in the Gulf states that the citizens must not cross. Likewise, there are lines that the government and the security authorities must not cross. These limits require that demonstrations should not call for the end of the existing regime. These demonstrations did not call for that; they called for legislative reforms, which is their right. The Gulf states know that the government's response should not have been so violent in terms of killing, assassinations, and terrorizing villages.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Al-'Alawi] You are welcome.

Kuwait

Assembly Speaker Views Relations, Other Issues

NC1504103595 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 9 Apr 95 p 8

[Interview with Ahmad Sa'dun, speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly (Majlis al-Watani) at "the beginning of Farvardin" in Kuwait by unidentified HAMSHAHRI correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] (Editor's note: During the visit by the HAMSHAHRI team to Kuwait at the beginning of Farvardin [21 March-20 April] we had an opportunity to be present in the Kuwaiti Majlis during the relatively free and strongly-worded debates on suspending the publication of the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA', the issue of housing and the strike by the Kuwait refinery workers which had begun on that day. It is worth mentioning that as a result of the criticism and objections by all the Kuwaiti newspapers and press and the Majlis deputies, AL-ANBA' resumed publication after five days. We also met Kuwaiti Majlis Speaker Ahmad Sa'dun, who is one of the long-standing influential members of the Kuwaiti Administration. The following is his interview:)

[HAMSHAHRI] Mr. Sa'dun. On our arrival in Kuwait, we observed that the government had suspended the AL-ANBA'newspaper and that the prime minister intends to resign due to the pressure from the protests of the press and Kuwaiti Majlis on this government decision. Could you please tell us your viewpoint as a Majlis speaker? Was the suspension of the paper correct? Does the government have such rights?

[Sa'dun] I should state that there are differences of opinion with regard to the interpretation of the Constitution on this issue and we are awaiting a clarification. It has not yet transpired whether the government has such a right and I prefer not to comment on the matter until then. [passage omitted]

[HAMSHAHRI] When we attended today's parliamentary session, there was talk of differences between the Amiri palace and the Kuwait Majlis deputies. Dr. Ahmad Khatib [not further identified] even said that the government is in the wrong, not the Majlis. What is your opinion on this?

[Sa'dun] There is no doubt that there are differing perceptions among the Kuwaiti Majlis deputies; therefore, it is not unusual for you to have heard such remarks. This is because every deputy has freedom of speech and everyone has the right to have an opposing viewpoint and to be heard by all. All of us have specific views on various issues, as was evident in the discussions on housing today and different views were vocalized.

[HAMSHAHRI] As a member of the Kuwaiti parliament, what are your views on the hereditary system of government?

[Sa'dun] We do not speak of the rule of the palace dwellers. Our remarks pertain to the rule of the Constitution, which has defined the powers of each side and no one can violate it. Therefore, when we speak of the government, it is within the context of the Constitution, which clearly defines it. If the government violates this definition, the Majlis can question the government or interpellate a minister and then he is forced to seek another vote of confidence. It can also question the prime minister and give him a vote of no-confidence and announce that it cannot cooperate with the prime minister. [passage omitted]

[HAMSHAHRI] Mr. Sa'dun. On what country's constitution has the Kuwaiti Constitution been modeled?

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[Sa'dun] Most of it is based on the Egyptian Constitution, which was approved in 1923, but we have also incorporated parts of the constitutions of other countries, such as Belgium, and to a lesser extent the Libyan Constitution during its monarchical era. Most of it has, however, been taken from the Egyptian Constitution. [passage omitted]

[HAMSHAHRI] Mr. Sa'dun. The revolution in Iran changed many issues after its victory over a chauvinist [preceding word in English] despotic monarchical anti-Arab system of government which favored racism and the Aryans. The Islamic Revolution in Iran opened its arms to the Arab world, Palestine, and all the Muslims. What is your perspective and assessment of the developments in Iran, especially parliamentary issues in Iran in the past 16 years?

[Sa'dun] We need greater mutual contact. I believe we need to foster greater understanding. What you have said is true and these leanings are also present on the Arab side. We need to wipe the slate clean and I feel a deep sense of joy when we sit and discuss such issues together and listen to one another's views regardless of whether we agree or disagree. This is also a form of logical debate and interaction. In my opinion, we need greater contact between the Iranian people and the Arab nation and we need to propound all kinds of issues.

As Third World nations and co-religionists,it is in our interest to discuss these issues, even those on which we differ, as there would be no harm in discussing them. We can seek qualitative solutions.

In my opinion, the better the frank contacts and discussions, the greater scope there is for transcending the issues of the past. We have common interests and we have the power to provide for our nation according to our capabilities. We have massive resources. At present, despite their immense resources, the European countries do not feel a sense of individuality. They have two permanent Security Council members in their midst, that is, Britain and France. Even then they do not feel that they can enter the twenty-first century on their own.

[HAMSHAHRI] Despite the savage wars among those countries, they have been able to leave the past behind and become united. We have a common civilization and a cultural heritage which did not have any limits or barriers.

[Sa'dun] I believe greatly in the contacts between the two nations. In fact, if such contacts had not been present in Europe, a union of European countries would not have been possible. For example, if the contacts between our journalists and cultural institutions were stepped up, they would benefit both the nations. I believe all of us in the Arab countries, regional countries, and Iran are interested in cooperation. There is no doubt that residual feelings of past relations still persist in our minds.

[HAMSHAHRI] And which can be discussed?

[Sa'dun] Certainly, and we can go beyond that, too.

[HAMSHAHRI] U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry said in his recent visit to Kuwait that the danger from Iraq is close at hand and the next danger is from Iran. If we ignore the issue of Iraq for now, do you really believe that Iran is a danger for the region?

[Sa'dun] They always say such things. They said the same when they met us but such issues should not provoke us. They are a huge government and have certain interests which sometimes clash with the interests of the regional countries. How should we approach such plans? How should we block the path of the acceptance of such plans and opportunities?

I believe that this can be done by a clear and frank appraisal of issues. Such meetings can prove effective. My personal view is that since these countries have certain interests, they therefore can say whatever they wish. However, it is our right as well to move away from issues which would spawn danger in the region and this can be done by direct contacts.

[Sa'dun] Mr. Sa'dun, we thank you for your time.

United Arab Emirates

Defense Minister Urges End to Iraq Sanctions

JN1504191995 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] United Arab Emirates Defense Minister Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum today called for lifting the sanctions clamped on Iraq since 1990 so it may rejoin the Arab community.

In comments on UN Resolution 986, which allows Iraq to export limited quantities of its oil for humanitarian purposes, the defense minister wondered: How long will the Iraqi people continue to suffer under the sanctions clamped on them?

The Emirates News Agency quoted him as wondering: Shall we extend our hands to shake the hands of the Israelis whom we have always known to be the Arabs' enemies and refuse to extend bridges of affection and trust to an age-old Arab country and people who need their Arab nation, and whose nation needs them?

Yemen

President Salih Discusses Unity, Arab Ties

NC1404160895 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 12 Apr 95 p 12

[Report on an interview with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by AL-SAFIR Chief Editor Talal Salman in Sanaa; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Introductory passage omitted] President Salih asked how I was and how

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AL-SAFIR was faring. He wanted to know when was the last time I visited Sanaa. I said my last visit was in early 1990. He noted that it had been a long absence and asked if I had not visited Sanaa during the union era. I asked if we weren't in the union era now.

He covered his embarrassment with a loud laugh and avoided making a reply by asking about Beirut and Lebanon in the post-war era: Have matters returned to normal? We hear a lot about reconstruction. Is it true that money is flowing to you and that investors have brought over their billions?

I said: We are now talking about you. Is the war over in Yemen?

He said: Yes, it is over but it has cost more than we could afford. We lost more than $10 billion, which is more than a poor country like Yemen can afford. Your socialist friends [Yemen Socialist Party, YSP] are only good at destruction.

I said: You seem confident that the war is over.

He replied: It is over and will not return. There is certainly no prospect of renewed fighting. There cannot be another conspiracy of comparable magnitude or a domestic political, partisan, provincial, ethnic mobilization, or foreign funding and foreign political backing like the ones that we saw then.

President Salih continued with emphasis: The mobilization was not normal; it was exceptional and extended over a large front at home and abroad. Some international powers backed the union but those same friends were not sure if it was going to last against the forces mobilized against it.

I asked: Who do you mean, the Americans or the Europeans?

He said: Everyone. To be precise we must admit that they were generally not supportive of the secession [of the south]. At the same time they were not overenthusiastic about the union. They just paid lip service to it to protect their interests in the Gulf. They knew about the weapons. Indeed some of their military attaches and experts saw the Mig-29's, the modern transport planes, and tanks with their own eyes. Perhaps they also heard the reports about the chemical weapons that were on their way to the separatists. Our victory forestalled the use of these weapons, thus sparing Yemen the catastrophe that would have certainly occurred if the separatists had had the chance to use them.

He paused for a moment, perhaps to make a new revelation, and then continued: They had a fabulous amount of dollars. Imagine, we retrieved the money that the separatists had paid on contracts for new weapons worth $227 million from East European countries.

Noticing the hint of a question on my face, he declared of his own accord: The money basically came from Saudi Arabia and from some Gulf emirates. The separatists also had alliances with several political parties here in Yemen and outside Yemen and with some Yemeni tribes.

I asked: Was it a "separatist conspiracy" or an attempt to overthrow the regime and seize power here in Sanaa?

He replied with the speed of someone who had prepared all his answers: The conspiracy's primary objective was to seize power in Yemen, and if that proved too difficult, to separate the south (the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen). If this also proved too difficult to achieve, they planned to satisfy themselves with a small state in Hadramaut. We were quite prepared to foil all these objectives. The number of martyrs does not matter. Unity is worth a million or more martyrs. Our determination was strong; we believed that we had to preserve the union at any cost. It was a dream come true and had to be safeguarded at whatever cost. A union is too sacred to be proclaimed one day and then be dissolved the next day by some adventurers greedy for power.

I said: You were helped by well-known international circumstances, particularly the U.S. stance. Some people say that it was incumbent upon the Americans to safeguard a unity that was declared in Washington and was sponsored by the White House.

Armed with "the Yemeni wisdom," 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said: Absolutely not. Some people over assess the influence of foreign stances. Needless to say, your position on the international level represents the basis. If this position were strong, it would reflect your position abroad. But if it were weak, it would not help you on the external level. The internal status is the core upon which your force inside and outside the country depends.

'Ali 'Abdallah Salih then recalled his statements on the eve of the declaration of unity in Washington. He said: The U.S. stance became positive when I visited Washington in a bid to exonerate the YSP from the terrorism charges and to pledge that the unity state will be a republic that adopts a moderate policy and will be anxious to maintain normal relations with everyone, particularly the United States.

We then moved to a quick review of the Arab stances on the Yemeni unity state and the partitioning of this state through secession. I asked 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih the following question: Perhaps the position of Shaykh Zayid, president of the United Arab Emirates, was the most vehement toward you and the unity state. This was very surprising. What is your explanation?

'Ali 'Abdallah Salih answered: It seems that this position was the result of the others' influence on him. Also, we must not forget that Shaykh Zayid rebuked our position on the Gulf war. He even classified us like Saddam, although we were against Saddam when he invaded Kuwait. Then there was the ambiguous international situation, particularly the U.S. stance, on the eve of the outbreak of the problems. Perhaps some of them,

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including Shaykh Zayid, declared their stances out of goodwill. They even declared that they would prefer secession to fighting.

I asked 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih: What about Egypt? Is it not true that Egypt has always been supportive of Yemen and has always provided it with protection?

'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said: Our ties with Egypt are friendly and historic. But President Mubarak's stance was influenced by Saudi Arabia. Moreover, the secessionists purchased weapons from Egypt. They told the Egyptians that Yemen is harboring the terrorists, particularly the "Afghan group" of Egyptian islamists. This is unfair and false.

I asked him: What about Iraq?

He answered: May God help Iraq. The situation there is extremely bad.

I asked him: Did Iraq support the unity?

He answered: Yes.

I asked him: Are you still a friend of Saddam? You were his strategic ally.

He answered: We are still friends, although we do not always communicate. Saddam never talks on the telephone. But the talk about the strategic alliance is a part of a tendentious propaganda campaign. Yemen's relations with Iraq are old and have always been friendly, dating back to the days of Imam Yahya. Don't you remember the name of Jamal Jamil? He was an Iraqi officer who took part in the 1948 revolution against the Imam in Yemen.

'Ali 'Abdallah Salih paused for a while and then said: At any rate you will know the facts one day that I was the first one to advise Saddam to withdraw from Kuwait and to avoid any involvement in a war against the world.

I asked President Salih if it is true that U.S. pressure was put on Yemen to deport the Iraqi "experts" and to discharge many pro-Iraq Yemeni officers. Salih said that the Americans expressed their desire that we should not have Iraqi experts in the Yemeni Army. At the time there was still only a small number in the Army and they returned to Iraq.

We then moved to domestic Yemeni issues and the stances of the political forces. I began with the partner and ally in the ruling regime, the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG], that is, the official title of the Muslim brothers trend and their supporters. I asked if any change has occurred on the stances of the YRG before and during the war. Salih said: The Muslim brothers were indeed against the Constitution, but during the war they were the staunchest supporters of the legitimate government.

I asked President Salih about the looting that occurred in Aden and whether tribes or the YRG were behind it. Salih quickly answered that the looting took place as a result of a decision made by the room of operations in Aden. Everything was either looted or destroyed. Generally speaking, the establishments were looted but private property was not except for some belongings of the YSP officials who led the secession. He added that there was a vendetta between those who were disaffected during the 13 January 1986 events—the coup against [former South Yemeni President] 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. The north Yemenis did not loot. The Sabr area was exposed to more looting and destruction than other areas. They destroyed the radio and television installations and looted all establishments, including schools. He added: Anyway, this is history. All that they destroyed is now being repaired. Electric and water supplies have resumed and many other establishments are now functioning normally and unity is steadily strengthening.

I asked President Salih if it is strengthening as unity or as northern hegemony of the south, as certain people say. President Salih said that these are tendentious propaganda campaigns. We Yemenis have been united as a nation and the Army has been merged and things are proceeding normally within the unified state. Even the names of brigades that hinted at identities have been replaced by figures to remove old sensitivities. There are five or six cabinet ministers who hail from the south, he said. He added: In short, what happened was a defeat for secession and not for the south and the victorious is Yemen.

I asked President Salih if his party, the General People's Congress [GPC], agree with the YRG, he said the GCP is not a party. So I asked him where he agrees or differs with the YRG, he said we agree on unity, the constitution and the national constants in general. I asked about the rivalry between the GPC and the YRG, he said the GPC was in power before and the YRG is competing and wants to control certain posts like any other party that covets power.

I asked: It has been announced recently that you agreed on a reform program for the state. President Salih said: Yes, and some elements in the government apparatus will be changed in the future, some people will rotate positions, and people accused of bribery and embezzlement will be referred to the judiciary.

I asked: Will these measures be enough to combat corruption and its causes? The president answered: Poverty is one of the reasons for corruption. The vestiges of the war is another reason. The problem with the YSP is that it created corruption. When it was in power it behaved like any totalitarian regime would, while resources were limited. They saw that conditions in the north were better and thought people there were stealing, so they started stealing. At any rate, the war is over. The third revolution in Yemen seeks to eliminate the vestiges of the imamate [pre-revolution] regime, colonialism, and war. It is a great revolution that is hard to accomplish.

I asked him: Can you accomplish it? He answered: It is not the ruler who will carry it out. The ruler draws

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general lines and the government, along with the people, will implement it. In the coming weeks there will be a change in almost all [state] departments and all qualified persons, regardless of their political orientation, will be employed.

I asked: It is being said that the regime is made up of a coalition between the Army and the tribe, and you represent both. He answered: This is the opposition's talk. As a ruling party, the [GPC] is full of experienced people, but experience needs an executive branch, and we have a surplus of civil servants. We have more than one million civil servants and we have to find jobs for hundreds of thousands of them and for other unemployed Yemenis.

I asked: Is the Army an idle power? He answered: We are reforming the Army. I asked: Following the unification, how many are in the Army? The president said: We have discharged many people from the military, thousands and even tens of thousands.

I asked: Why does not the Army contribute to building the infrastructure? He said: It cannot do that because it is spread out along a distance of 2,200 km.

I said: This leads us to the original topic: You and Saudi Arabia. The president said: Saudi Arabia is behind all the problems in Yemen. I asked: How are things between the two of you now? President Salih said: In a state of ebb and flow. The border is the core of the problem. We have reached a memorandum of understanding, which we ratified and handed back to them. But they have not yet exchanged the ratification documents. The memorandum of understanding is a mechanism toward reaching a final agreement.

I asked: What did you discuss with the [Saudi] military committee that visited you recently? He said: We exchanged views to prepare for the third round of talks to be held in Riyadh. In their draft, they have deviated from the memorandum of understanding, but the Yemeni side is keen to comply with the memorandum.

I asked: The most important thing in the memorandum of understanding is their recognition of Yemen's unity? President Said answered: Yes, but there are advantages in the al-Ta'if Agreement and its annexes.

I asked him directly: It was said that you had wanted to go to war with Saudi Arabia. The president was startled: Absolutely not, he said. We do not want war and do not intend to enter one, particularly since we have just come out of a costly war. He added in diplomatic language: We are a peaceful country, and war needs money; dollars, not just men. Whoever thinks of war is stupid. The Yemeni diplomacy has been successful. It managed to evade the attempts to drag Yemen into the war trap. The Yemeni delegation's stay in Saudi Arabia for a whole month is the best proof of the success of the Yemeni diplomacy as well as of our desire to avoid an armed struggle over the borders and all outstanding problems.

We resumed our discussion of domestic issues, particularly the subject of "opponents," including the opposition and the opposition's opposition.

'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said: We cultivate the opposition because it helps correct numerous wrong practices. An opposition that has a patriotic role, rather than one afflicted with political stubbornness, has positive and beneficial points. However, our opposition is still governed by hatred. It encourages fanaticism, although a higher level of education is making inroads against tribal, provincial, and confessional fanaticisms. Nevertheless, some educated people are more vicious than the illiterates.

Speaking of educated people, the President-Lieutenant General did not fail to observe that there are nearly 150,000 young people studying at Yemeni universities and that the number of graduates is increasing yearly.

At this point, lunch was announced in a nearby hall. Before we left for the dining table, I asked some rapid questions:

—What is your relationship with the U.S. Administration like nowadays? Is it the same in Clinton's era as it was in the days of George Bush?

—Our relationship was adversely affected by the Gulf crisis.

—Because you backed Saddam?

—We opposed foreign invasion and also Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

—How are your ties with Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]?

—Not bad.

—Then you support the Gaza-Jericho Agreement?

—We would have liked a better agreement than this one. We would have preferred an agreement called Gaza-West Bank. However, in the absence of Arab solidarity, the Palestinians were forced to accept Gaza-Jericho.

—Does this mean that you are providing excuses for them?

—This is my personal opinion. It is also my opinion as an official. Had we enjoyed more Arab solidarity, we would have clung to the six points included in Fahd's Morocco initiative [proposal to solve the Palestinian issue submitted in 1982 by then Saudi Crown Prince Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to an Arab summit conference in Fes, Morocco]. However, the Gulf war helped bring us to our current situation.

—How is your relationship with King Husayn?

—Excellent.

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—Why? How can you have excellent relations with Jordan, Sudan, Iraq, and 'Arafat at the same time when their political positions are diametrically opposite?

—We are happy with our good relations with everyone. All the Arabs must have good relations with each other. Yemen's interest lies in having good relations with all parties.

—Yemen has not made its voice clearly heard on the subject of Lebanon's confrontation with the Israeli enemy.

—Our principled political position is that we are opposed to the Israeli occupation. We also back Syria's stance in the negotiations.

—But you support the Jordanian stance, and Abu-'Ammar's stance. This means that you are undermining the Syrian position.

—We hope that Syrian and Lebanese diplomacy will attain its objective with Arab support. We would have liked circumstances to be more favorable for the fulfillment of pan-Arab ambitions. What happened, however, is that Israel fulfilled its ambition of dealing with each Arab country separately. We were occupied with the war and the separatists. Damage in Yemen harms Lebanon, for example, or the Arab Maghreb. Some do not realize how fast events in one Arab country can affect another. For instance, the current tendency to reduce oil prices will certainly harm us.

We rose to the dining table. Our conversation carried on and on. It branched out to many subjects. The "president," however, was ready for all the questions. He did not lack courage, although his memory failed him sometimes and he could not remember some occurrences.

Al-Iryani on Pact With Saudi Arabia, Other Issues

NC1704073495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0602 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has discussed his country's appreciation and respect for the role played by Egypt and President Husni Mubarak in serving Arab issues and said that Egypt bears major responsibility for achieving Arab solidarity, protecting joint Arab interests, and finding the right climate for Arab countries to reconcile with each other. He praised in this regard Egypt's major role in defusing the differences between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM published today, he denied that Yemen's territories are used as a springboard for activities hostile to Egypt and said such accusations are untrue. He added that his country is fully prepared to remove this misunderstanding. He proposed direct cooperation between the two countries' Interior Ministries by concluding an agreement on the extradition of criminals.

He stressed the need to promote bilateral relations in every field, noting that there is a market in Yemen for Egypt's high quality products.

Touching on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, al-Iryani told AL-AHRAM that his country has not decided on its position and that it will discuss the relevant Arab League resolution so as to adopt the right stance.

On the Yemeni-Saudi memorandum of understanding, he said the problem does not lie in agreements and memorandums, but in implementation. The al-Ta'if Agreement has long been in existence and the memorandum of understanding represents the two countries' mechanism of implementation. He added: What was done was the ideal solution for solving the problem and is a complete formula for solving the two countries' border problem and for creating new scope for cooperation on the basis of al-Ta'if, which he said he considered to be the oldest agreement between two Arab countries. He said the memorandum of understanding revives al-Ta'if.

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Leading Officials, Bodies React to Resolution 986

Saddam Chairs RCC, Ba'th Meeting

JN1504052595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2120 GMT 14 Apr 95

[From the INA overnight file]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr 95—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a joint meeting for the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The conferees discussed the resolution which the UN Security Council passed this evening, Friday 14 April 1995, in which it adopted the U.S. draft resolution; a resolution that is worse and more dangerous than the previous UN Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 which were categorically rejected by Iraq.

The joint meeting stressed that the new resolution includes the same provisions that infringe on Iraq's sovereignty, independence, and national unity and delay for an indefinite period the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

The RCC and Iraq Command joint meeting urged the states that have showed understanding of Iraq's position not to change their positions which call for implementing Paragraph 22 as an obligation which the UN Security Council must fulfill especially since Iraq had implemented the requirements stipulated by the said paragraph.

The meeting also stressed that the clamor fabricated over the Iraqi biological program aims at preventing the UN Security Council from discussing the implementation of its commitments toward Iraq in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. The meeting stressed that the time the resolution was presented to the Security Council confirms this fact, so that the resolution can serve as the prelude to chain the future of our people, and not to implement Paragraph 22 that calls for ending the unfair embargo imposed on them. Therefore, Iraq confirms once again its firm right to have the UN Security Council abide by the implementation of the provisions of Paragraph 22 as soon as possible.

It has become clear to the leadership and the great Iraqi people that what compelled the United States to hasten to present this resolution to the UN Security Council were the Iraqi people's steadfastness and determination to attain their firm right to lifting the blockade as soon as possible. Therefore, further steadfastness and jihad in defense of Iraq's right to eliminate injustice against them as a result of the continuation of the unjust blockade will strengthen the stands of the good people inside and outside the UN Security Council during the next deliberations, and bring closer the date for lifting the blockade.

During this joint meeting, it has been decided that during its current session, the National Assembly shall discuss the new resolution, its background, and serious effects. The Legislative Council and the Executive Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party cadres, the National Patriotic and Progressive Front's parties, the people's councils, and all the trade unions and popular organizations, shall also discuss this resolution.

'Text' of 'Aziz Statement

NC1404192595 Paris AFP in English 1714 GMT 14 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, April 14 (AFP)—Following is the text of a statement by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz on a UN Security Council resolution adopted Friday [14 April] which said Iraq could sell up to one billion dollars' worth of oil each quarter subject to UN control.

I regret that the positive and sincere efforts we made throughout the last 10 days, and the efforts made by a significant number of the members of the Council to reach a resolution that could be workable and clear of biased political motivations have been blocked by the United States.

It is quite clear to the members of the Council that the United States did not intend in pushing this resolution to help alleviate the humanitarian hardships in Iraq.

The U.S. exercise was on the one hand a public relations campaign, and on the other a deliberate effort to jeopardise the prospects of lifting the whole economic sanctions and to infringe on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq.

It was also quite clear to the members of the Council that this resolution was rushed against the will of the majority in the Council in order to undermine the constructive and sincere discussions that were developing in the Council to solve major issues in a manner that would have produced a text serving the declared purpose without any biased political motivations.

The United States bears the full responsibility for preventing the Council from reaching that result.

Ramadan Urges Rejecting Resolution

JN1604165495 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has said that U.S. Resolution 986, which the United States has come up with to deceive world public opinion, as usual, serves the U.S. interests and world Zionism only and clearly encroaches on Iraq's national sovereignty.

During a meeting today with the heads of the mass and popular unions, offices, and organizations, and trade unions, he stressed that the Iraqi people, supported by all the honest people in the Arab homeland and the world, reject this new U.S. resolution because it includes hostile

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objectives that serve U.S. interests and deprive the Iraqi people of their right to export their oil and purchase what they need in food, medicines, and other human necessities.

The vice president noted: The ill-omened U.S. resolution will not secure the basic needs of the Iraqi people, as the United States claims, but will increase the Iraqi people's suffering, harm them, and starve them. This is in addition to partitioning Iraq, flagrantly interfering in its internal affairs, and plundering its oil resources.

He said: Iraq's great people, who are continuing their crossing to the other bank of final victory through their jihad and patience, will foil all the aggressive U.S. plots just as they have foiled them over the past years, especially since they have realized that the United States is trying to divert the world public's attention, including the UN Security Council member states, from the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 because the implementation of this paragraph will foil the aggressive U.S. schemes against Iraq.

Taha Yasin Ramadan pointed out that Iraq's acceptance of this resolution would give the United States and its allies a chance to achieve their evil objectives of partitioning Iraq—people and land; controlling its oil resources and the Iraqi people's destiny; and determining the mechanism for exporting its national oil and the for supply the people with food and medicine. He said that this encroaches on the dignity of Iraq, for which it has struggled and sacrificed for many years.

Taha Yasin Ramadan called for exposing the aggressive objectives of U.S. Resolution 986, and for rejecting it by holding expanded symposiums for all the sons of the Iraqi people in the cities, villages, and rural areas in order to foil this inhuman resolution.

Assembly Speaker: Resolution 'Unfair'

JN1504161995 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Iraqi Parliamentary Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has said that the Iraqi people have no alternative but to reject the United Nations resolution allowing Baghdad to resume partial oil sales. Salih told reporters that the voice of the masses expresses the Iraqi attitude: It is the rejection of this unfair resolution. He said: The Iraqi people have no alternative but to demand the full lifting of sanctions as there is no other choice.

Mr. Salih was leading a demonstration of about 5,000 Iraqis in the heart of Baghdad who shouted slogans condemning the resolution as a desperate U.S. attempt, showing the bankruptcy of the Clinton administration.

Cabinet Urges 'Categorical' Rejection

JN1604055295 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has said that Iraq's sovereignty has been crowned by the stages of struggle and jihad and by rivers of blood offered by Iraqis for the sake of Iraq and their national unity. He said this sovereignty requires maximum utilization of all capabilities to maintain it in all fields—the economy, culture, politics, and the Armed Forces. Those remarks were made in the course of an important address by President Saddam Husayn during his excellency's chairmanship of the 15th session of the Council of Ministers. The session was devoted to discussing the new U.S. resolution issued by the UN Security Council on 14 April.

At the conclusion of its five-hour session, the Council of Ministers unanimously decided to recommend the categorical rejection of the resolution. This is because the resolution seriously compromises Iraq's sovereignty and national unity, for the sake of which the Iraqi people have paid rivers of blood and offered the dearest sacrifices.

The Council of Ministers ascertained that this resolution is nothing but a maneuver by the United States to prevent the UN Security Council from implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 since Iraq has honored its obligations and met the conditions set for lifting the ban on oil exports as a start for the full lifting of the blockade against Iraq. The resolution was deemed an attempt to distract the attention of those concerned inside and outside the UN Security Council from implementing the aforementioned paragraph and to discourage the friends of Iraq from working for that purpose.

The Council of Ministers has ascertained that the new U.S. resolution imposes a succession of shackles on Iraq's present and future.

The Council of Ministers stressed the Republic of Iraq's constant policy, represented by its fair demand for the implementation of Paragraph 22. It stressed that Iraq will work on all levels to achieve this fair objective and will constantly work to reveal facts to the Arab and world public opinion and expose and thwart the U.S. Administration's malicious intentions and schemes.

Assembly Views 'Serious Dimensions'

JN1604180495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1722 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA)—The specialized standing committees of the National Assembly held a meeting today under National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih.

During the meeting, the National Assembly speaker reviewed the serious dimensions of U.S. Resolution 986, which constitutes a serious precedent in international relations, an encroachment on Iraq's sovereignty, and a threat to its security and its people's national unity.

He added that this U.S. resolution does not seek to alleviate or end the Iraqi people's suffering, but it is an evil attempt to circumvent the UN Security Council's implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687,

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especially since Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations toward the UN Security Council resolutions.

Masses Declare 'Absolute' Rejection of Resolution

NC1504184895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1735 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Apr (MENA)—The masses of Baghdad's al-Karkh and al-Rasafah districts have declared their absolute rejection of the malicious U.S. Resolution 986, which targets the steadfastness, sovereignty, and dignity of great Iraq. In two separate cables sent to President Saddam Husayn, they asserted their resolve to continue to work and create until they achieve final victory.

The cable says: The masses of Baghdad are extremely irate at the U.S. arrogance and the mad imperialist intransigence, which reflect the deep hatred buried in wicked souls which have no place for humanity. This hatred is represented by the unfair U.S. resolution with which the United States has added another page to its shameful record of wicked aggression against the proud Iraqi people and the glorious Arab nation.

Our struggling masses are aware of all the methods of deception and trickery, are alert to all the imperialist plots and malicious aggressive moves surrounding them, and are determined to continue the struggle and sacrifice until the banners of pride and dignity are raised with your right hand on the second bank [al-diffah al- thaniyah] in their laurel-crowned march of crossing. Our patient and steadfast masses denounce this blatant and risky game and affirm that they rally around your superior leadership. This is a new pledge to your high esteem that we will gouge out the eyes of the enemies and agents.

'Mammoth' Demonstrations Cited

NC1504181295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Apr (INA)—The masses of Baghdad have strongly denounced U.S. Resolution No. 986, which seeks to harm Iraq's sovereignty and national unity.

In mammoth marches and gatherings, the masses stressed their rejection of the U.S. resolution and of the tendentious U.S. intentions and suspicious attempts to prolong the unjust blockade against our steadfast people.

In their chants, the masses renewed their pledges of loyalty and faithfulness to President Saddam Husayn and expressed their complete readiness to make sacrifices until Iraq successfully reaches the goal of virtue and victory.

The masses of al-Rasafah in Baghdad voiced their rejection and denunciation of the malicious American resolution issued on 14 April, which is worse and more serious than Resolutions 706 and 712, which Iraq had previously categorically rejected.

'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the al-Rasafah organizations of the party, gave speech to a mass gathering at the headquarters of the al-Rasafah organizations, saying that Iraq's success in obtaining broad Arab and international support for its positive positions on the Security Council resolutions in order to lift the blockade, and the international isolation of the tendentious U.S. position have prompted the United States to make unsuccessful, miserable attempts to undermine the steadfastness and sovereignty of great Iraq. The recent U.S. resolution is part of these attempts, he said.

He added: While the crowds are proclaiming their denunciation and rejection of the malicious U.S. resolution, we must recall with appreciation the positions of the countries that have understood and supported Iraq's positions. These include Russia, France, and China. We call on them and other countries around the world to continue their efforts until Iraq obtains its rights through the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 678.

He said the steadfastness of our valiant people and their insistence on work and creativity within the march of jihad and construction under the banner of "God is Great" raised by President Saddam Husayn is our way to the imminent victory. He added: Let the United States know that the Iraq of victory and steadfastness, for thousands of years has been, and will continue to be, a living, unified, and indivisible body despite all enemy attacks and all conspiracies by colonialists and agents to harm the march of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution and the immortal Mother of Battles.

The masses of al-Rasafah district, which geographically includes Saddam, Sa'd, al-Rashid, and al-A'azamiyah branches of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, recited the oath of steadfastness and victory, pledging to remain loyal to President Saddam Husayn on the path to solid victory, expressing their rejection and denunciation of the American resolution, and announcing that they will continue their work and creativity to build the dear homeland, end the unjust blockade, and cross to the shore of pride and might.

During the huge mass gathering, which was attended by the secretaries and leaders of the Saddam, Sa'd, and al-Rashid branches of the Party, poems and songs were performed in which the masses renewed the pledge of absolute loyalty to the builder of Iraq's glory, President Saddam Husayn. They stressed that they will remain like poised swords behind his excellency in the march of jihad and construction, working to foil attempts by the colonialists, Zionists, and agents to harm the Iraq of pride, steadfastness, and permanent victory.

In another mammoth gathering today, the masses of al-Karkh in Baghdad denounced the malicious U.S. resolution which aims to prolong the unjust blockade and harm the sovereignty, dignity, and steadfastness of Iraq.

In their chants and songs, the masses emphasized the pledge of absolute allegiance to the president, promising

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to remain faithful soldiers behind the "God Is Great" banner raised by President Saddam Husayn. The masses renewed their pledge to continue the march of jihad, construction, and creativity until victory is scored and the crossing to the shore of dignity and might is achieved.

In their gathering, which was attended by Sa'di Mahdi Salih, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the Party's organizations in al-Karkh, the masses of al-Karkh denounced the shameful American positions and the U.S. hegemony over Security Council resolutions. They stressed that these positions proceed from hatred of the march of our valiant people and their historic upsurge.

The gathering was attended by the secretaries and leaders of the Abu-Ja'far, al-Hamzah the master of martyrs, and Khalid Bin-al-Walid branches of the Party.

Press Reacts to 'Serious' UN Resolution 986

AL-THAWRAH Assails Ruling

JN1604143695 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1050 GMT 16 Apr 95

[Editorial from the 16 April AL-THAWRAH issue entitled: "Where the Harm, Threats Lie"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Iraqi Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, which was chaired by President Leader Saddam Husayn, has emphasized that the new resolution that bears the number 986 is worse and even more serious than the previous two resolution, 706 and 712, which Iraq has already categorically rejected. Where is the harm in the resolution and what threat does it pose to Iraqi sovereignty and independence?

A slow and accurate reading of this resolution, beginning with the preamble, which is covered in phrases that claim an eagerness to provide humanitarian assistance to our people, and ending with the last sentence, which claims that the resolution does not infringe on Iraqi safety or territorial integrity, will demonstrate that all the paragraphs in between included a flagrant violation of this sovereignty, international contempt for Iraqi pride, and deliberate and systematic containment of the efforts aimed at ending the embargo on the basis of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 of 1991. This paragraph obliges the UN Security Council to fulfill its commitment in exchange for Iraq's abidance by international resolutions. Iraq has indeed abided by these resolutions.

Let us begin with our reading of the resolution from its preamble, to which its American drafters were careful to introduce phrases and sentences alleging concern over the serious nutritional and health conditions of the Iraqi population. These reveal the false claims that they are convinced that the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people must be provided for. They introduced a new condition to fulfill this need by obliging Iraq to abide by resolutions that they claim are linked to this matter. This is a serious sentence which places additional obligations and burdens on Iraq that would commit it to accepting every unfair and unacceptable resolution that they might issue in the future while Iraq's commitment to Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 dictated that the embargo should be ended and that it should be allowed to export its oil and other minerals to import all its needs away from custodianship or foreign interference.

Their harmful intentions are revealed in the preamble once again, when it links the implementation of the resolution to Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. This is an exposed, wicked attempt to hint that that chapter dictates the implementation of the resolution, as if this case threatens world security and stability, as they claimed to justify the 30-state aggression against Iraq in 1991. This exposes the objectives of the resolution, which, it is claimed, does not infringe on Iraq's sovereignty, while that very linkage constitutes an infringement on Iraq's sovereignty and exposes the fact that their real intentions are different from their declared claims.

The mechanism for implementing the resolution exposes most of the intentions, which aim to achieve certain purely American political goals and objectives that they failed to achieve through the unacceptable Resolutions 706 and 712 and then sought to introduce in the new resolution while shedding crocodile tears over the conditions in Iraq.

Beneath this cover, they concocted the game of circumventing Resolution 687. We can sense this in the actual measures designed to implement this resolution. These measures are as follows:

1. They set, as a condition, the fact that the states wishing to purchase Iraqi oil should submit their applications to the Sanctions Committee formed in accordance with Resolution 661 of 1990. These states should also define in their purchasing applications the oil quantities required, the purchase price, and the port of exportation.

The resolution also grants the committee the right to accept or reject applications without consulting with Iraq. The committee has the right to determine whether to accept the quantity as well as to define the price and the alternative port of exportation, knowing that the resolution stipulates that the largest share of exported oil will be for the Turkish port of Yumurtalik, and the lesser share will be exported through the al-Bakr Port without specifying the larger percentage exported through the Turkish port or the lesser portion exported through the al-Bakr Port.

This openly means that it is up to the Sanctions Committee to determine the quantities, thus granting it the right to determine what state it wishes to sell oil to and with the price it sets and also through the port it permits regardless of the desire of the purchasing states or Iraq which is the owner of the oil.

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2. A fund under the UN secretary general will be established through an escrow account belonging to the United Nations in which Iraqi oil revenues will be deposited. This tendentiously disavows Iraq's right to receive the revenues for its oil, as well as Iraq's right to use these revenues to achieve the interests of its people and to secure their real needs.

The UN secretary general has the right to consider the importation plans proposed by Iraq. If Butrus Ghali approves these plans, they will be referred to the Sanctions Committee, which may or may not approve them.

If good intentions are there and if such an approval is given, the importation will be conducted through this committee and under its supervision. However, the imported oil will remain subject to inspection, along with oil exports, by agents appointed by the United Nations. These agents will follow up on distributing the commodities and have the right to freely tour all governorates of Iraq.

To compliment this measure, which encroaches upon our national sovereignty, the resolution grants these agents privileges and international immunity, which compels the Iraqi officials to allow them to move freely in all Iraqi governorates without supervision. These agents will also submit to the committee and the UN secretary general special follow-up reports. In turn, the committee and the UN secretary general will submit special reports on the situation to the Security Council every three to six months.

In light of these reports, it will be decided whether to continue to allow Iraq to export the permitted quantity of oil or to discontinue this, based on the authenticity of these reports.

Our experience with the inspectors is known and does not need any proof that they mostly lacked authenticity.

3. The new resolution burdens Iraq with additional expenses that will eat up a large portion of the revenues of the oil sold, assuming that this oil is sold without objection and at reasonable prices. Hence, the net money deposited in the UN fund allocated for Iraq and supervised by Butrus Ghali will be equal to, or less than, the funds allocated to Iraq in accordance with Resolution 706 and 712.

Although the new resolution raised the previous allocations from $1.6 billion every six months to $2 billion, it also raised the deductions and new additions to $300 million for the compensations fund. We must also note here that the sums deducted under the previous resolutions did not exceed 30 percent. This means that these deductions could be less than this as circumstances in Iraq dictate. But, the new resolution has set them at no less than 30 percent. This means that these deductions could exceed this percentage.

B. [as heard] $150 million for the relief organizations in northern Iraq.

C. Sums, as yet unspecified, such as the expenses incurred by international inspectors in al-Bakr Port and the Turkish port.

D. Expenses, as yet unspecified, by international auditors who will supervise the accounts of the international fund on Iraq's sales and purchases.

E. Sums, as yet unspecified, to cover the expenses of the Special Commission and the international inspectors—Ekeus' men.

F. Sums, as yet unspecified, for other activities whose nature the resolution did not specify.

G. $10 million to cover sums that have been spent by the international organization from the frozen Iraqi funds abroad.

Thus, Iraq's purchasing share every three months will be some 500 million dinars, or even less than this in accordance with the expenses to be specified later on under the above provisions.

One notices that the expenses earmarked by those who adopted the resolution are meant to cover a sizable part of the funds the United States had disbursed to secure the needs of the armed gangs that have violated Iraqi national sovereignty in northern Iraq and to cover the expenses of the UN representatives in the region who feel embarrassment because the U.S. administration refrains from settling its obligations to secure the perpetuation of the mission of these elements in service of its conspiratorial scheme that is hostile to Iraq and the unity of its people.

With respect to expenses in the new resolution, Iraqi funds will cover foreign conspiratorial tasks targeting Iraqi territory, people, and resources, not to mention that the new resolution gives the rebels in the northern part of the homeland $150 million every three months to perpetuate their secessionist move and have Iraq finance it against the will of the Iraqis—Arabs and Kurds. We should not forget here that the disposal of the $150 million is not subject to the same conditions as those set for the operation of purchasing the materials and requirements for the other parts of Iraq.

From this premise, can there be anything worse than what this resolution contains? Is the resolution, which contains 19 paragraphs, meant to come to the rescue of the Iraqis, or does it encourage harming their national sovereignty and imposing tutelage on them? Are the many provisions of this resolution supposed to show that it is a compassionate resolution, and thus stop the Iraqis from pointing to their tribulations to expose this resolution as a U.S. resolution? This resolution only serves Washington's political designs. If it does anything, it seeks to perpetuate the embargo on our people and to circumvent Resolution 687. What is more dangerous is that it legalizes partitioning in northern Iraq after all the Iraqis' steadfastness and cohesion, with their unique leadership, foiled all the previous conspiracy schemes. It

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has become evident that with this steadfastness, patience, and jihad, the Iraqis will bury any new and treacherous scheme. They will inevitably cross to the bank of victory and their final crossing is imminent.

Ruling Called 'Deliberate Affront'

JN1604100395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi press has expressed a unanimous view that U.S. Resolution 986 flagrantly violates Iraq's sovereignty and national independence. The resolution is unfair toward Iraq and its people, the press said.

In their editorials today, AL-THAWRAH, AL-JUMHURIYAH, AL- QADISIYAH, and BABIL assert that the paragraphs of the U.S. resolution cloak the evil and aggressive objectives of the U.S. Administration toward Iraq. The U.S. resolution blocks the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which calls for lifting the Iraq blockade.

The newspapers stress that Iraq is not begging for anything from anybody. It wants to manage its own resources freely and in a way that preserves its rights, sovereignty, and the dignity of its people. The newspapers add that the U.S. Administration, which pushed for the issuance of Resolution 986, knows that the blockade should be lifted in conformity with Security Council Resolution 687.

AL-THAWRAH, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says Resolution 986 is a deliberate affront to Iraq. The resolution seeks to block efforts to end the blockade in line with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which stipulates that the Security Council should fulfill its obligations once Iraq meets its commitments toward the international resolutions.

The paper adds that the Americans who drafted the resolution were careful to include in its preamble words and phrases that allege concern about what they called the serious nutritional and health situation of the Iraqi people. This preamble exposes their false claims that they are convinced of the need to provide for the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH criticized the resolution, saying that it is worse and more dangerous than Resolutions 706 and 712. The resolution was drafted in a way to block the lifting of the blockade and contain international efforts that seek to lift the blockade.

In its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH highlights the negative aspects of the resolution. The preamble of the resolution contains a serious paragraph that was inserted deliberately to lay to waste all Iraqi efforts and sacrifices over more than four years of cooperation with the United Nations to implement Section C of Resolution 687. These Iraqi efforts were designed to have the blockade lifted in line with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which states that once Iraq implements Section C on the destruction of its mass-destruction weapons, then the economic blockade will be lifted and afterwards the rest of the resolutions will be implemented to remove the other aspects of the blockade.

The preamble of the new resolution, which reads "The Security Council, convinced of the need as a temporary measure to provide for the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people until the fulfillment by Iraq of the relevant Security Council resolutions, including notably Resolution 687," includes two very serious additions that were not included in the previous Security Council resolutions. First, the resolution makes it clear that Iraq has so far not implemented Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 687. Thus, the Security Council denies Iraq's commitment and implementation of Section C. This will take us back to square one and obstruct any attempts to have the economic blockade lifted. This means that the Security Council thinks Iraq has so far not fulfilled its obligations, which is a serious matter that contradicts the truth.

The second addition in the preamble of the new resolution is that it states that lifting the economic blockade does not only depend on Section C of Resolution 687, as stipulated in Resolution 687; Iraq has also to fulfill other relevant Security Council resolutions. This addition virtually cancels Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 and stipulates that Iraq should implement all Security Council resolutions to have the economic blockade lifted.

AL-JUMHURIYAH also comments on the procedural aspects of Resolution 986, saying that the mechanisms adopted to implement it prejudice Iraqi sovereignty. This prompted China to show reservations and France and Russia to object. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH also discusses the political aspects of the new resolution, raising the issue of Iraq's national unity. Resolution 986 is clearly based on creating a permanent source to fund the separation of northern Iraq. The resolution stipulates that the larger part of oil should be exported via the Turkish line. This means securing additional funds for the rebels in northern Iraq to entrench their rebellion against the central authority and turn it into a concrete split that has permanent financial resources. Thus, the Iraqi Government will finance the split of northern Iraq forever. [passage omitted]

AL-QADISIYAH says the U.S. resolution is a tendentious political scheme that seeks to block efforts to have the unfair Iraq blockade lifted. In its editorial, the newspaper, which is specialized in military affairs, says the recent U.S. resolution contradicts the positive developments between Iraq and the United Nations and seeks to maintain the unfair blockade. [passage omitted]

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Radio Calls Ruling 'Dangerous'

JN1504190795 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1625 GMT 15 Apr 95

[Commentary from the "Today's News and Follow-Ups" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ladies and gentlemen: Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has presided over a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The conferees discussed the resolution the UN Security Council [UNSC] passed last night, Friday, 14 April 1995. During its Friday session, the UNSC adopted the U.S. draft resolution, which is worse and more dangerous than the previous UNSC Resolutions 706 and 712 that were categorically rejected by Iraq. The following report will address this issue:

The joint meeting chaired by leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, last night stressed that the new resolution includes the same provisions that infringe on Iraq's sovereignty, independence, and national unity, and indefinitely delay the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

The conferees urged the states that have shown an understanding of Iraq's position not to change their positions, which call for implementing Paragraph 22 as an obligation which the UNSC must fulfill, especially since Iraq has implemented the requirements stipulated by the said paragraph.

The conferees also stressed that the clamor fabricated over the Iraqi biological program aims at preventing the UNSC from discussing the implementation of its commitments toward Iraq in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. They stressed that the timing of submitting the new draft resolution to the UNSC confirms this fact, so that the resolution can serve as a prelude to shackling the future of our people, and not to implementing Paragraph 22, which calls for ending the unfair embargo imposed on them. Therefore, Iraq confirms once again its inalienable right to have the UNSC comply with the provisions of Paragraph 22 as soon as possible.

It has become clear to the leadership and the great Iraqi people that what compelled the United States to hasten the submission of this resolution to the UNSC were the Iraqi people's steadfastness and determination to attain their inalienable right to lifting the blockade as soon as possible. Therefore, further steadfastness and jihad in defense of Iraq's right to eliminate the injustice meted out against them as a result of the continuation of the unjust blockade will strengthen the stands of the good people inside and outside the UNSC during the next deliberations, and bring closer the date for lifting the blockade.

At this joint meeting, it has been decided that during its current session, the National Assembly shall discuss the new resolution, its background, and serious effects. The Legislative Council and the Executive Council of the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party cadres, the National Patriotic and Progressive Front's parties, the people's councils, and all trade unions and popular organizations, shall also discuss this resolution.

It is clear that the new UNSC resolution is meant to complement Resolutions 706 and 712 of 1991, which have been rejected by Iraq since their issuance. Iraq explained the objective reasons for rejecting these two resolutions, saying that these reasons have something to do with safeguarding national sovereignty, which all states are eager to safeguard. The two previous resolutions, as well as the new resolution passed last night, constitute flagrant interference in Iraq's domestic affairs, brush aside national authority, and grant all its powers with regard to exporting oil and concluding contracts, receiving sales revenues, and purchasing Iraq's food and medicine requirements to a committee to be named by the UNSC.

The draft U.S. resolution passed by the UNSC is merely a clear circumvention aimed at confusing the progress made in Iraq's cooperation with the UN Special Commission. It is meant to rehabilitate the dead Resolutions 706 and 712, which were rejected by Iraq on objective grounds that were supported by the specialized technical delegation formed by the United Nations in January 1992. This delegation accepted the proposals Iraq submitted to facilitate an agreement on oil exports.

What always happened is that whenever the delegation submitted its report to the UNSC, the U.S. permanent delegate to the UNSC, in his capacity as representative of the U.S. Administration, categorically rejected the agreed proposals that ensured the fulfillment of obligations by both sides. Thus, we were always back to square one each time. This was the U.S. position, which blocked all compromises with the specialized technical delegation chosen by the UNSC to speak on its behalf in the negotiations with the Iraqi side. Moreover, the U.S. Administration blocked the efforts made by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz in New York over the past few days in the course of his negotiations with the representatives of the UNSC members to ensure that the UNSC fulfills its commitments toward Iraq in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

This anti-Iraq U.S. position shows the objectives and purposes of the new resolution, which was submitted to the UNSC by Argentina at the urging of the United States. It is to be recalled that this resolution enjoyed British support. This move is a political maneuver aimed at applying pressure on Iraq and delaying the revocation of the sanctions clamped on our people, particularly since it has become clear to all that Iraq's fulfillment of its obligations, as spelled out in the relevant UNSC resolutions, now dictates a reconsideration of the sanctions in fulfillment of the UNSC's commitments toward Iraq.

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Our basic demand, which enjoys the support of a large group of states, is revoking the sanctions and lifting the economic embargo in implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, and not accepting the crumbs offered us by the United States. Our demand is that each party take its rights. This will happen, God willing, thanks to the Iraqis' resolve, patience, and steadfastness, and the determination of their leader, who has broken the glad tidings to them, telling them that relief from hardship is imminent, that the embargo is in its death throes, and that prosperity is undoubtedly in the offing. Give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere. [Koranic verse portion]

Opposition Radio Comments

NC1504201695 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Apr 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night, the UN Security Council adopted Argentina's draft resolution, which is entitled: Oil in Return for Food and Medicine. Thus, the Security Council has partly lifted the international ban on Iraqi oil exports. Resolution 986 allows Iraq to sell its oil under the same old conditions, but with certain amendments. Now UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali will be the one to decide on the amount of oil to be exported and the amount of food and medicine the Iraqi people need.

The Saddamite regime is expected to announce its final position on this resolution. Tariq 'Aziz, who is now in New York, took no position on the resolution; he remained silent and asked for some time to contact his regime before announcing a final position. Up to the time of the writing of this analysis, the regime has not taken any clear position. The regime is expected to arrange meetings for its so-called National Council to take a specific position on the resolution. Knowing that the regime does not usually turn to this Council when it makes other decisions, some believe that the regime now intends to accept the resolution, although it has rejected it for more than three years, and although Tariq 'Aziz said the resolution leaves not a single dollar for Iraq from its oil revenues.

Political observers wonder about the significance of this new development for the position of the regime and its possible serious consequences concerning Iraq's wealth and resources. They ask the significance of the rejection for the past three years despite all the destruction and damage to the Iraqi people.

The regime has persisted in rejecting the resolution so vehemently that observers are confused about the reasons, especially since the regime has gone beyond all limits in accepting other international conditions and dictates that violated the security, sovereignty, and independence of Iraq and imposed a serious reality on it, turning the country into a protectorate at the mercy of international forces and placing its resources in the hands of these countries, which control everything and now are only competing over percentages.

Some observers attribute the regime's new position to its basic policy, which begins with rejection and ends with a sensational acceptance of serious international resolutions worse than earlier ones. This is what is happening now. The new resolution is much worse than earlier ones, but it was drafted in a diplomatic way.

Daily: British Policy Driven By U.S. 'Motives'

'Lies' in Western Daily Assailed

JN1404153495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has accused the British administration and its media and intelligence organs of being stupid and feeble-minded because they are following U.S. motives in showing hostility toward Iraq.

In an article today, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party newspaper said the decisionmakers and sellers of disinformation in London are voluntarily driven behind Washington's hostile campaign against Iraq, prompted by their latent and inherited hatred of a series of Iraqi revolutionary and militant stands against the British occupation and interests until they uprooted this occupation in July 1958 and severed the arms of the British octopus in July 1968.

The newspaper noted the lies disseminated by THE SUNDAY TIMES about an unknown Iraqi scientist claiming that Iraq has resumed its endeavors to manufacture nuclear weapons. It said the British media's firm hostility toward Iraq and their instigations against it is based on the principle "lie and continue lying until the foolish believe you."

AL-THAWRAH expressed extreme regret that the Western disinformation media should degrade the sublime message of journalism, which is based on the principle of enlightenment and hard facts, and descend into a quagmire of betraying the trust and deceiving public opinion. The paper said this deceptive approach contributes to a loss of credibility in international dealings.

THE SUNDAY TIMES earlier published copies of two documents it said an Iraqi scientist faxed to London from Athens. The documents claim Iraq had resumed attempts to produce nuclear weapons. The TIMES alleged that the Iraqi who sent the documents was later kidnapped.

Professor Maurizio Zifferero, deputy director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has exposed THE SUNDAY TIMES lies and allegations. In a statement to reporters in New York before entering a UN Security Council meeting, Zifferero said: THE SUNDAY TIMES documents are forged and do not contain anything related to nuclear matters.

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AL-THAWRAH voiced the belief that the two documents were invented by intelligence organs and said that THE SUNDAY TIMES has not been able to name the Iraqi scientist, explain his disappearance, or reveal the evidence he had about Iraq's resumption of its nuclear programs, given the extremely tight international system of direct monitoring of Iraq's nuclear installations that had been destroyed with the full knowledge and through schemes masterminded jointly by the United States and Britain.

The newspaper ridiculed the stupidity of those who drafted the documents because they used words and language like that which prevailed in Iraqi government departments when the British controlled Iraq. The paper said those responsible for the two documents forgot that the expressions "eminence" [al-ma'ali], "excellency" [fakhamah], and "my lord" [mawlay] are no longer used and were buried by the Iraqis when they expelled the occupation authorities from Iraqi territory.

The paper said: Britain is still using the mentality that prevailed during the decades of occupation and has not realized the changes in the region and the world, especially Iraq, between the twenties and fifties, and the nineties.

IAEA Official Calls Story 'False'

JN1404111195 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Professor Zifferero, deputy director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], has said that the documents that were published by the British newspaper THE SUNDAY TIMES, which claimed that they belonged to an Iraqi scientist—said to have disappeared in Athens—are false. This came in a statement to reporters before taking part in the Security Council discussions in New York a short while ago, during which the Council is expected to ask him about this fabricated story published in the British paper.

Zifferero said: The published documents are only two. The first document consists of two lines, while the second consists of 20 lines. The documents, which give no details on nuclear issues, are false.

THE SUNDAY TIMES published a report on the eve of the Security Council debate on the siege imposed on Iraq, in which it claims that Iraq has resumed its nuclear program and that an Iraqi employee has supplied it with important documents on this program. Forgery is clear in the published documents. One of the documents, which is attributed to the Military Industrialization [MIO] Organization, was addressed to the minister in charge of the MIO, as follows: His excellency the minister personally. This form of address is not used in official Iraqi correspondence, and has not been used in Iraq since the fall of monarchy in Iraq in 1958.

Informed observers in New York said that Professor Zifferero's statements have greatly embarrassed the British and American representatives at the Security Council because they sought to distort Iraq's stand at the Security Council to force the Security Council members to maintain the sanctions on Iraq.

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Prime Minister Rabin on Peace Process, Syria

TA1404184795 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (Pesach supplement) in Hebrew 14 Apr 95 pp 2-4

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by correspondent Ya'aqov Erez at Rabin's Knesset office; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Erez] Mr. Prime Minister, how did you feel during the week, which started out with two terror attacks on Sunday [9 April] and was then followed by the funerals and two more of the wounded dying, and later yet the argument over the agreement with the Palestinians?

[Rabin] Such a grave attack by a lunatic suicide terrorist—who is willing to blow himself to smithereens only to kill Israelis—and other types of attacks are very grave, very grave indeed. We must recall that what happened last Sunday affected mainly soldiers, and this is not mere chance, because they were returning to their duty in the Gaza area after the Saturday leave. Civilians were also hurt, but all the casualties except for an American student were male and female soldiers.

I feel a heavy load of responsibility, because these soldiers were carrying out orders, none of them volunteered to serve in the Gaza area. They were harmed because I and the government have decided that within the framework of the interim arrangement the settlements—even Kfar Darom and Netzarim, which are isolated and far off—should remain intact.

[Erez] Some people say you should have given up Netzarim and Kfar Darom.

[Rabin] Between 700,000 and 900,000 Palestinians reside in the Gaza area and only 4,000 to 5,000 Israelis. Leaving the settlements in their place creates a heavy burden on the army. The scattered nature of the settlements and driving on the roads by both civilians and soldiers calls for increased patrolling and is very dangerous for the soldiers. If Netzarim and Kfar Darom were not established and all the settlements were concentrated in the Qatif Bloc, it would not have been nearly as dangerous.

At the same time, I still believe settlements should not be uprooted during the interim stage. I do not rule out the possibility that settlements will be uprooted when we reach the permanent arrangements. There is a precedent for this in the Sinai, where we uprooted settlements, but only within the framework of a permanent arrangement that guaranteed peace and security for Israel.

[Erez] The Oslo process was based on the assumption that we rely on 'Arafat to gain control in the area, whereas in fact the opposite case has happened.

[Rabin] The basic assumption of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] as far as security is concerned is as follows: Israel is to preserve external security, and we determined the appropriate arrangements for this. Israel is also to preserve security for the settlements and safeguard the movement of Israelis to and from the settlements. At the same time, when we left the large Palestinian population centers we expected them to make a similar effort so that the vacuum created by our exit would be filled in such a way as to prevent this area from becoming terror bases against us or against the Palestinians themselves.

We built a fence and implemented strict measures in order to prevent the transfer of terror from within the Gaza Strip into Israel. I believe, although I have no intelligence proof for this, that the fact that the two car bombs exploded in the Gaza Strip and not in Israel, results from the measures we have implemented. It is not absolutely certain that the fence and the other measures will be foolproof, but it makes it more difficult to drive car bombs into Israel.

[Erez] Was Yahya 'Ayyash, the "engineer," involved in both incidents?

[Rabin] There are signs he was, but I cannot say so for certain. We have not managed to reach him in the two and a half years he has operated in the West Bank. I think that many people in Israel do not understand the serious nature of the extremist Islamic terrorists, the measure of insanity inherent in their beliefs, their willingness to bear casualties, pain, and hardship; the compartmentalized nature of their operation, their ability to withstand interrogation, the difficulties of intelligence infiltration. We have not been familiar with such a network in Lebanon.

[Erez] Do you believe the measures being implemented by 'Arafat in Gaza point to a change in his domestic policy?

[Rabin] I sincerely hope so. From our experience such efforts bear fruit if they are ongoing, consistent, and wholehearted. Since the Dizengoff bus attack we have detained 2,700 people in Judaea and Samaria. Without an ongoing war, consistent and comprehensive measures, we will not be able to deal with this.

[Erez] Were you in touch with 'Arafat over the last few days?

[Rabin] He called me on the day of the attack, expressed condolences, and said the attack was not directed only against Israel. Naturally it is mainly aimed against Israel, but also against 'Arafat himself and against the peace. I told him: If this is how you see it, do what I have already told you to do several times. Make sure there is only one armed force—the Palestinian police. Issue weapon permits to only a few people. Detain the terror nuclei: the organizers, agitators, those preparing the explosives, the perpetrators, and the weapon bearers. They must all be tried or be put under administrative detention. The Palestinian police must also prevent mass demonstrations with the participation of armed people. In addition to our supervision at the border crossings there should

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also be Palestinian supervision. They should also deploy forces along the fence to prevent incidents.

[Erez] What was his reaction to your remarks, and is he doing enough?

[Rabin] There are signs he is. Whether this is enough, well, this is only the beginning, and he will be tested according to how much he does and according to his determination and perseverance.

[Erez] Do you accept the proposal, attributed to Peres, to establish a Palestinian state in Gaza and Jericho—a proposal relayed to 'Arafat?

[Rabin] Theoretically speaking, if that would wrap up the story with the Palestinians, there would be room for considering this. I do not believe, however, that any Palestinian—certainly not 'Arafat—will accept such a proposal.

[Erez] How are your relations with President 'Ezer Weizman? Over the last few weeks Weizman has repeatedly demanded the suspension of the agreement.

[Rabin] In Israel there are no clear rules concerning what a president may or may not say. The government, however, is responsible for making decisions and conducting policy. I have heard what he said, because we maintain a dialogue. Yesterday I met him at his request. I respect the Presidency and the president, and I will never argue with him publicly.

[Erez] If terrorism continues, will the next stage of the agreement be implemented on 1 July?

[Rabin] I want to put this in positive terms. Peres said, on my behalf, that we want to conclude the negotiations by 1 July; obviously the implementation will be in stages. I am against stopping the negotiations and procrastination, because an Israeli decision calling for halting the talks would give various elements an excuse to stop other negotiations. By continuing the negotiations we must preserve the openness toward Israel in parts of the Arab world.

[Erez] There are people in your own camp who accuse you of hesitancy. They maintain, for example, that this has been proven by the fact that you did not evacuate the Jewish settlers from the heart of Hebron after the Cave of the Patriarchs massacre.

[Rabin] I am not looking for minor conflicts; I am searching for large-scale solutions. Therefore, I will not disband settlements and thereby create conflicts that could be very grave. Anybody can try to guess in advance how grave these conflicts will be, but then be proven wrong in one way or another. I am seeking a solution on the basis of the terms we decided upon—as long as the other side fulfills its part.

[Erez] I want to go back to what you just said, namely, that you are not looking for minor conflicts.

[Rabin] I am not looking for minor solutions which will create conflicts. I am looking for the large-scale solution.

[Erez] Correct me if I am mistaken in my impression that you have undergone a change. You have become much more moderate over the last two years. Does this change stem from your strategic target?

[Rabin] What are you talking about? When I visited the 'Etzyon Bloc in 1981 I said I am willing to reach the place with a visa if peace is achieved. At the time people said I was a dove. Essentially I have not changed my position. I was always against the Greater Israel concept. Why do you not read an interview I gave MA'ARIV in January or February of 1968, when I completed my term as chief of staff. I said that the results of the Six-Day War give Israel territorial assets, strategic depth in case of war, and a large territory for achieving peace.

As far as a solution is concerned, at some point I considered Jordan as the party for such a solution. After July of 1988, when King Husayn decided to dissociate himself from the Palestinian problem, I initiated—within the framework of the national unity government—the government initiative of 14 May 1989 to consider the Palestinians as a negotiations partner. I never advocated the Greater Israel idea. I believe that the Jewish people have a right over the entire Israel, but in practice this would call for annexation. It is not a matter of annexing a wadi, a mountain, or a valley. The problem is in terms of annexing the Palestinian population, a thing that would result in a binational state. I am against annexation and against returning to the 1967 borderline—these are two main points.

[Erez] Are you opposed to a Palestinian state?

[Rabin] At this point I am opposed to a Palestinian state. I would like to reach some kind of tripartite network: Jordan and Israel as states, and the Palestinians as a separate entity, but less than a state. [passage omitted]

[Erez] Hizballah claims the stage of understandings with Israel is over. Is this true?

[Rabin] Somebody issued such a statement. I called Secretary of State Christopher and told him about this statement. The understandings are not between us and Hizballah, rather between us and Syria via the secretary of state. I asked him to contact the appropriate authorities in Syria to officially hear whether the understandings are valid or not. A day later he called me and said Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' had told him the understandings remain intact.

[Erez] Are you not occasionally tired, constantly carrying this heavy load? Is it not too heavy a burden?

[Rabin] Undoubtedly, being a prime minister and defense minister is a great responsibility. I am convinced that in the present circumstances it is a good thing I hold both posts.

[Erez] Do you intend to continue holding both posts?

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[Rabin] Clearly and unequivocally yes, as long as this is possible from the parliamentary point of view. Today there is a close link between the political process and routine security affairs. If there is a serious obstacle to the implementation of the DOP with the Palestinians, it is terrorism. Look, on a personal level, nobody forced me to be prime minister; nobody forced me to carry out both posts. I have often said that for me the premiership is not an obsession, but an option. In 1991 I decided to run in the Labor primaries and in 1992 to lead Labor in the elections. I am glad I succeeded in both attempts.

[Erez] However, are you not tired sometimes?

[Rabin] At my age I want to complete cycles in which I have been personally involved as a member of the 1948 generation. I am personally and emotionally involved in these cycles. I signed the peace agreement with Jordan in the 'Arava after starting the war against it on 15 May 1948 in Jerusalem and finishing it off in Umm Rashrash, later called Elat. After 46 years of border incidents and the Six-Day War we reached peace. This is an extremely significant thing both on the national and personal level. For this I was willing to undertake the difficulties, which are sometimes great. I also derive great encouragement from things of which I do not usually speak.

[Erez] Such as?

[Rabin] I received a letter from the parents of one of the Kfar Darom attack victims. I received it yesterday, but I will not divulge the details. This letter strengthens me in my resolve to carry on with the peace process.

[Erez] Was it a letter from the parents of one of the male or female soldiers who died there?

[Rabin] I tell you that I received the letter, read it, and was deeply moved. I have to admit, however, that there are many more imprecatory letters—I do not want to conceal the truth. It is true that sometimes I am very tired, but I feel I am fulfilling here a role in special historic circumstances: the breakdown of the Soviet Union; the end of the Cold War; the Gulf crisis; the stabilization of America; the Madrid conference—this is a unique situation that does not happen every 10 or 20 years. [passage omitted]

[Erez] The public is in a bad mood, at least as indicated by the polls. How do you regard these polls?

[Rabin] I distinguish between two things. I read the polls published, say, in your paper or in another paper. These polls are published every week or two, and sometimes there are considerable differences between them. I do not take these polls lightly at all. I do, however, tend to discount the Jaffee Institute annual poll which was based on findings from the worst period, just after the Bet Lid attack.

I do read, therefore, what you do in the newspapers, your periodic polls. At the same time I try to understand the findings. One has to be deaf and blind not to understand that events such as Bet Lid or Kfar Darom are bound to influence the public. I took into consideration the possibility that during this process painful incidents would occur.

[Erez] Your popularity, however, has been on the wane for many months now.

[Rabin] I believe in what I do. I realize there will be difficult periods which are bound to harm my popularity. I will not decide on a policy based on the polls as long as I believe we are heading in the right direction.

[Erez] People say the public mood is bad, among other things, because of your own moods—such as your rage attacks. For example, when you called Labor Knesset members [MK's] "idiots."

[Rabin] It is not a matter of my moods. Sometimes I get angry over things, for example, as relating to the Knesset faction. What do they have to do? To come to the Knesset for votes three days a week. Is this asking much? When you see their basic responsibility being undermined, when MK's who are on the premises do not even bother appearing for voting on important issues you have to ask yourself where their sense of responsibility for their job is.

[Erez] Almost every week you attack some sector in the public, such as the defense industries workers. Maybe you are right, but at the end of the day you will need them to vote for you.

[Rabin] I do whatever I believe in and whatever is right. I will not presume to say I do not have electoral considerations, especially when elections are near. But some things that really bother me must be said. Sometimes I may express myself too sharply, but I think this enables me to obtain the results in the end. [passage omitted]

[Erez] Turning to Syria, it looks as though we are in a freeze, perhaps even a deep freeze, with Damascus.

[Rabin] I think that we are in a situation wherein Syria's demands in one area, and perhaps even more than one, are over and above the price we paid to Egypt. To give you one example—Syria's demands for equality in the geographical aspects of the security arrangements. This is absolutely inconceivable. I agreed to the principle of a certain withdrawal, and not merely of a cosmetic nature. But when you reach the issue of security arrangements and confront such an attitude you have to ask yourself whether these are merely negotiation tactics or a substantial Syrian position.

Without conceding our positions, I want to continue the dialogue in the only format Syria has agreed on, the ambassadors talks in Washington with U.S. presence, or via the visits of the secretary of state or members of the peace team. I want to give peace a chance, and the only way to do this is by continuing the dialogue even if there are no understandings.

[Erez] Meanwhile the talks are stuck.

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[Rabin] I do not know this yet. We will see next week. Meanwhile, there is the Passover holiday. This week everybody in Israel and the United States is on holiday, and I do not know whether the talks will go on during the American holiday.

[Erez] Do you agree with those who say 1995 is a decisive year and that the next two months are the key to success?

[Rabin] I am wary about dates. Obviously, lost time has an impact on the process and could be very significant. However, I have no dates; the problem is one of substance.

[Erez] Is November 1996 a significant date for you?

[Rabin] Certainly.

[Erez] Will you be a candidate for the premiership in November 1996?

[Rabin] I said that I want to continue with the process, and I will say no more. I want to continue with what we started both in the political-security and domestic spheres.

[Erez] If, however, you do not succeed in achieving all these targets by November 1996 will you continue?

[Rabin] I said what I said. You can interpret it as you like. [passage omitted]

[Erez] Do you plan to add new ministers to the government in June?

[Rabin] I do not like to state my plans in advance. I prefer to do and say things I am convinced I can implement the next day.

[Erez] Will Ehud Baraq be in the government?

[Rabin] I do not want to discuss one name, because then you will ask me about three others.

[Erez] Let me ask you about the three right now: Ehud Baraq, Hayim Ramon, and Yosi Beilin.

[Rabin] I will not refer to personal issues.

[Erez] I received the impression that your relations with Shim'on Peres have greatly improved.

[Rabin] I think we both learned from the past; we understand that without real cooperation we will not be able to further what we both consider the most important target for Israel.

Rabin on Peace Process, U.S. Involvement

TA1504160195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Apr 95 p B3

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by correspondent Aluf Ben; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ben] When will we know that 'Arafat has taken effective action against terrorism?

[Rabin] When I see results. We have also not yet succeeded in hermetically preventing terrorism in the territories under our control. I hope there will not be any attacks, but I am not certain that there will not be any. There is a fanatical, extreme Islamic element prepared to die in order to carry out attacks. Its support among Palestinians is not insignificant. There is a readiness to confront, to suffer, to die, for what they believe in. If we are not capable of dealing with it and realizing that it is painful, then we will not achieve anything, because the alternative to the peace process is its suspension. If that happens, all the Palestinian forces will unite for an enormous effort at terrorist attacks. [passage omitted]

[Ben] Both you and President al-Asad constantly say that you want peace. But again and again we hear that the negotiations with Syria are stuck. Where does the problem lie? Has any progress been made in the all the years that talks have been going on with the Syrians?

[Rabin] Clarification has been achieved. I have a suspicion that al-Asad wants to prove that for peace he will get more than al- Sadat got. It is possible that he needs to explain to himself, and perhaps also to others, why he rejected al-Sadat's 1977 proposal to come with him to Jerusalem. According to what I know, al-Sadat suggested to him: Come with me, and together we will receive all the territories in return for peace. Al-Asad rejected it at the time. Moreover, he attacked al-Sadat. Al-Sadat's Egypt was booted out of the Arab camp after the signing of the peace agreement. Without going into details, al-Asad wants today more than al-Sadat received, so that he can explain why now, after 18 years, he is going back to what he turned down in 1977, according to our sources.

That poses obstacles because we have no intention of now making a commitment to the Syrians on the basis of what al-Sadat received. There is definitely no intention of discussing seriously a demand for geographic equality in security arrangements.

[Ben] How can the deadlock be broken? There are suggestions for changing the approach: for an American bridging proposal to be presented to both sides.

[Rabin] No way. Up to now, we have not reached peace or an agreement the essence of which is peace without a prior Israeli secret dialogue with an Arab partner. Al-Sadat would not have come to Jerusalem had there not been two secret meetings between Dayan and al-Tuhami, and it can be assumed that when he came here he knew what the price for peace would be. We would not have reached a Declaration o? Principles agreement with the Palestinians without seven, eight months of secret negotiations with the PLO in Oslo. We would not have reached peace with Jordan without quiet contacts, also held previously, but concretely begun in May 1994.

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There are no such talks with the Syrians. They have so far refused to hold them. The talks take place in the presence of Americans, and I very much appreciate the Americans for not trying to twist arms and not trying to present a take-it-or-leave-it [last word in English] proposal. They try to persuade. What is acceptable to us we accept, and what is not, they do not try to be the ones to decide on. [passage omitted]

[Ben] You will be visiting Washington in another three weeks. In Congress, there is growing opposition to foreign aid, there is a delay in writing off Jordan's debt, there are disturbing declarations against aid to other states, and there is the rejection of King Husayn's request for military aid. How does that influence the readiness of other partners to talk?

[Rabin] Changes are taking place in America, which are the result of an honorable democratic process. From time to time there are ups and downs in the U.S. approach to foreign policy. There is no doubt that America is currently living in a world that is different from what took place in most of the rest of the century. There is no longer a superpower conflict; there is no cold war; there is no threat of global nuclear war; there is also no danger of limited wars in which American forces might participate; there is no Korea or Vietnam. There is therefore a tendency to focus on domestic problems.

Nevertheless, if America is interested in peace, stability, and security in the Middle East, it is still the dominant external factor that can make an impact. Today, there are two elements that threaten peace, security, and stability in the Middle East: fanatical Islam, the ugly wave I call Khomeynism without Khomeyni, behind which stands Iran. Iran to me is currently a bigger danger than Iraq as a result of the Gulf war and the sanctions being imposed on Iraq. Iran is behind the Islamic wave that is blanketing North Africa, from Sudan to Algeria—a wave that operates against us among the Palestinians and Lebanese and that opposes peace in Jordan. The other danger is poverty and ignorance.

It is important that parallel to the peace process with us, aid also be given to the Arab states, perhaps not to the extent that President Carter gave aid to Israel and Egypt. American aid to the Palestinians is less than 25 percent of the commitments made by donor states. Jordan is disappointed—to a great extent justifiably—that the American commitment to write off its debt has so far not been implemented. I assume it will be worked out.

I am also in favor of American military aid to Jordan because in my view each regime in the Arab world wants to prove that peace has also brought about the strengthening of the national security of the state that signed a contractual peace with us and wants to live in peace with us.

I think many people in America understand that. That does not mean involving American soldiers in fighting. There are currently 1,000 Americans in the Sinai. At first, with the signing of the peace accord there were more. None of them have been hurt. UNDOF [UN Disengagement Observation Force] is on the Golan Heights, and none of its soldiers have been hurt. I wish all the lines separating us from the Arab states were as quiet as the line between us and the Syrians on the Golan Heights.

[Ben] A proposal has been raised in Congress for Israel to give up a small part of its civilian aid, $50-100 million, and for the sum to be transferred to Jordan, for instance. Why not?

[Rabin] I will explain why not. It is called civilian aid, and in practice it is defense aid meant to permit us to return our debts to the United States for arms bought in the United States for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the period preceding the full grant for arms—$1.8 billion annually. The $1.2 billion (the level of civilian aid) is more or less what is currently needed to pay back the debts, the consolidation to the banks and the remaining half in payments to the U.S. Administration.

[Ben] Last week, Ofeq-3 was launched. You praised the launch, but what now? Was it only an experiment or is it a decision to launch an operational system of satellites?

[Rabin] We wanted to reach the capability of a satellite that gives us information. I do not know what situations we will be facing in the future, where the enemies will be located, whether they will necessarily be the immediate enemies. If, God forbid, Algeria falls to Islamic extremists, an Islamic state similar to what exists in Iran will be set up there. Algeria has a nuclear development project, as does Iran.

If there is no international activity against militant Islam, against what could develop if that wave comes to power in another Arab country—not only in Sudan—I want us also to have a potential in the intelligence field beyond what can be achieved through the current means at our disposal. We should at least have the potential to make decisions that can be implemented in a relatively short time.

I also believe that in such an investment, we are advancing Israel's technological level to a great extent. It gives us sounder entry into space issues, which will play a first-rate role in many civilian areas, and it is important for Israel to have that capability. We must look forward to the year 2000.

[Ben] Do you plan to compete for the post of prime minister in 1996?

[Rabin] I plan to continue the process I began as much as I can. I will not say more than that.

[Ben] Thank you very much. Happy holiday.

Rabin Does Not Rule Out Palestinian State in Gaza

TA1604182695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Apr 95

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik on 16 April; place not given—recorded]

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[FBIS Translated Text] [Sukenik] The prime minister gave a live interview this evening to ABC, but did not go into the details we are interested in.

[Rabin] Members of the murderous Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] group in the Hebron area remain on the loose, but we will persevere until we manage to reduce their ability to operate as much as possible.

[Sukenik] Rabin explained in the U.S. interview that 1 July is not a sacred date where postponing the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the West Bank is concerned. He said 'Arafat must yet do a lot in the security area, mainly to arrest terrorists and collect all illegal weapons in the Gaza Strip.

[Rabin] At the moment the results are unsatisfactory. In my opinion, the Palestinians can achieve more. We demand as much, and we will evaluate them accordingly.

[Sukenik] We could not help asking him about Hamas' arch- terrorist Yahya 'Ayyash, alias the engineer.

[Rabin] I know almost for a fact that he is in the Gaza Strip, that he is alive and active, and that he will try to continue to hurt us. However, just as every terrorist has met his end so will his end come.

[Sukenik] Mr. Rabin, judging by what an Israeli paper quoted you as telling a U.S. paper, you have really reversed your position, and today you support—or at least do not rule out—a Palestinian state.

[Rabin] Were they to accept a Palestinian state in Gaza alone and drop Judaea and Samaria, I would seriously consider it.

[Sukenik] Does that mean that the term Palestinian state does no longer scare you?

[Rabin] That depends on to what it applies. If it applies to Gaza alone, there would be something to talk about.

Peres on State of Peace Talks, U.S. Efforts

TA1404170095 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Apr 95 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondent Moti Bassok on 11 April; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Bassok] Given the current state of relations with the Palestinians, can the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment take place at this time? Can the IDF be removed from Hebron?

[Peres] Why start with Hebron? There are seven major cities. Redeployment can start elsewhere. Everything is possible. We can build bypass roads. All types of solutions are being discussed. In any event, I do not doubt that the current situation is the worst possible because it brings terror and prevents peace.

[Bassok] Would you accelerate the process now?

[Peres] I would stick to the timetable we have discussed. I hope we will reach the agreement on the next stage of the process by 1 July this year.

[Bassok] Did you have other expectations from 'Arafat.

[Peres] Perhaps. I am not very good at psychology.

[Bassok] How do you view the permanent arrangement—a federation, a confederation, or an independent Palestinian state?

[Peres] There are many more ideas, but now is not the time to discuss them. Every time an idea is published before its time, it dies prematurely. I have various ideas about what should be done. Basically, I am for a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. I have not changed my mind on that. At the same time, the relations between Israel and such a federation are very complicated. All types of elements can be introduced here. I would go for a tripartite economic Jordanian-Israeli-Palestinian confederation, and a bilateral political system of a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation and Israel. I distinguish between the two.

[Bassok] For a long time, you have doubted the chances of attaining an agreement with Syria. In view of Dennis Ross' recent failure, do you believe an agreement is attainable before the elections?

[Peres] I believe Syria should be given the benefit of the doubt. I have doubts, but this is not a reason to stop negotiations. There still is a chance that the Syrian side would make a bolder decision. It has not happened so far, but who is to say that it will not happen?

[Bassok] Does al-Asad really want peace with Israel, or does he want peace with the Americans, or something else?

[Peres] At this stage, the option of war is nonexistent. It is not a matter of desire. Today, no one has a real offensive strategy because they are incapable of acting on it. Thus, there is a need to see how things organize. All those leaders, including al- Asad, cannot seriously solve their people's problems while in a state of war. There is no economic recovery in a state of war. War swallows much of the budgets, energy, foreign relations, and investments. Look at Asia. Which countries have ascended economically? Only those that have ended their military conflicts. Even gigantic China is today made of silk, militarily speaking, and of iron and steel economically. It is impossible to have both. If there is no stability and peace, investments will not arrive and exports will not leave. None of the leaders is above the horizon, the new world horizon. And, if they stay aloof, they will pay the price, not we.

[Bassok] What is going to happen with Syria? Will the ambassadors' talks continue? Will there be any form of dialogue?

[Peres] I assume the ambassadors' talks will go on. The Americans say that they do not want the military talks to start before there is an agreed-upon basis.

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[Bassok] Would you like to see greater U.S. involvement?

[Peres] I do not have a wish list. There is U.S. involvement. I do not see how we can ask for more. They are very much involved. What more can you ask for? Clinton has been to Damascus; Christopher has been there, I do not know, some 13-14 times. Dennis Ross always shuttles between here and there.

[Bassok] Are you satisfied with the way peace with Jordan has developed?

[Peres] Absolutely. You know, for many years I have been accused of favoring the Jordanian option. It is finally seen that I was not all that wrong on this issue as well. The Jordanian option has always been the right and the available one. Now, we must take care to fill it up with real substance, so that it is not portrayed as futile. I want the people to feel that peace brings results.

From Israel's point of view, our situation is very difficult. Labor, which has always wanted peace, made historic gains but is paying a political price because it will take years, perhaps a decade, before we see the fruits of peace, but the price of peace has to be paid today. Nevertheless, if you do not pay the price today, you will see no fruit tomorrow. I said only yesterday: Peace is not a high jump; it is a long-distance walk.

[Bassok] Was the debate with Egypt over the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] an isolated event, or does it indicate a significant worsening of Jerusalem-Cairo relations?

[Peres] It does not reflect a worsening, but a change in the Middle East constellation. The impression may have been created that Israel wants, or that it has an interest in taking the central role of Egypt, which is not true. We have no interest in becoming a leader of or a leading element in the Arab world. We have a real interest in being a partner in improving the standard of living because it is a supplement to the security situation. The Arabs believe we are talking of a Middle Eastern economy because we want to improve ours. That is not true. Our economy does not depend on the Middle East economy. Peace in the Middle East, however, does depend on the Middle East economy. A poor and miserable economy will always provide grounds for the despaired and fundamentalists. Therefore, we are interested in a politically, not economically, new Middle East. I believe the Arabs should have an interest in a different economic Middle East, which would provide answers to their peoples.

[Bassok] In your briefing to the cabinet last Sunday [9 April], you said that you had told Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in Paris last week: "We signed a peace-for-territories agreement with you. Why do you raise new demands on the NPT at this time? Tomorrow you might raise the issue of Jerusalem." Does your aggressive approach reflect a tactical change or something more profound?

[Peres] I said that we and Egypt had a basic agreement on land for peace. We gave all the land, and we expect a full peace, not a conditioned or partial peace.

[Bassok] What was Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev looking for in his Middle East visit? Does Russia want to be a superpower in this region once again?

[Peres] Russia wants to be a superpower everywhere, not only in the Middle East. It misses the time it was a superpower. It has the potential to become one. It has memories of a superpower, which is a small wonder when it sees its economic, geographic, cultural, and human power today and remembers that only a few years ago it was a major superpower. It wants to revive this. [passage omitted]

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Foreign Minister Terms UNSC Oil Sale 'Positive'

JN1604075795 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Apr 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordan Saturday [15 April] described as "positive" Friday's U.N. Security Council decision to allow Iraq a limited oil sale but said the resolution could not be an alternative to the complete lifting of the trade sanctions against Iraq.

"The resolution is not an alternative to lifting the sanctions, but it is an advanced step in that direction," Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti told the JORDAN TIMES.

"As such, (the resolution) should be viewed positively," said Mr. al-Kabariti, who met with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz on Saturday.

During a phone call with Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Saturday, Mr. al-Kabariti also expressed appreciation of the role Oman played in introducing "positive amendments" to Security Council Resolution 986, which was adopted unanimously by the council.

Oman, a member of the Security Council, sponsored the resolution along with the United States, Britain, Argentina and Rwanda.

The Resolution allows Iraq to sell $2 billion worth of oil every six months to buy food, medicine and other supplies.

Omani Information minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas was on Saturday quoted as appealing to Iraq to accept the resolution "because it will open the way for (Iraq) to regain international legality."

He said his country sponsored the resolution in order to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Agence France Presse quoted Mr. al-Rawwas as saying the resolution would alleviate the suffering of the Iraq people and confirm Iraq's territorial integrity.

The resolution was also welcomed by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who said the decision was a step towards the total lifting of the sanctions on Iraq.

But Iraq on Saturday rejected the plan, with the ruling Revolutionary Command Council saying in a statement that "the new resolution is worse and more dangerous than previous resolutions."

NPT review

Mr. al-Kabariti leaves Amman for New York today to take part in U.N. discussions over the extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

Mr. al-Kabariti told the Jordan Times the Kingdom supports the treaty and its objective but he stressed the need for international gurantees to help countries neighbouring Israel, including Jordan, against potential nuclear threats from the Jewish state's nuclear reactors.

The foreign minister said Jordan believes Israel must join the NPT, provide a timetable for doing so or agree to international supervision of its nuclear facilities.

Israel's refusal to join the treaty has caused a major crisis with Egypt, which said it would not vote for a renewal of the treaty unless Israel agrees to sign it too. Israel reportedly has about 200 nuclear warheads but refuses to sign the NPT or to declare itself a nuclear power.

Mr. al-Kabariti said Jordan has not yet decided on how it will vote on the treaty, on which the U.N. will vote on May 25. He said he will be holding talks on the issue with Arab foreign ministers participating in the debate over the treaty in New York and with foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement, who will meet in Banduns, Indonesia, next month.

The United States is pushing for an indefinite renewal of the treaty as Third World countries are expected to table resolutions demanding definite extension.

Jordan has said that its decision on the treaty will be in line with the decisions of the Arab League and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz Pays Visit, Meets Leaders

Received by Foreign Minister

JN1504155895 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 15 Apr (PETRA)—[Foreign Minister] 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti received at Queen Alia International Airport today Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who is on his way back to Baghdad from New York.

Briefs Prime Minister on U.S. Trip

JN1604142095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received at his office today Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who arrived in Amman last night from New York en route to Baghdad.

'Aziz briefed the prime minister on the outcome of his visit to New York and the Iraqi position on the recent UN Security Council resolution which allows Iraq to export a portion of its oil for humanitarian purposes.

Official Says Iraq Pipeline 'Strategic Decision'

JN1704085595 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Apr 95 p 3

[Article by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordan and Iraq are studying a proposal to build a $1.4 billion pipeline to pump Iraqi crude to the al-Zarqa' refinery and replace the present trucking system, which is hazardous and costly, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazah said Sunday.

The 950-kilometre pipeline, which will run from Hadithah in northwest Iraq to the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company in al-Zarqa', will have an installed capacity to pump 250,000 barrels per day (b/d) of Iraqi crude, but initial pumping will be limited to 100,000 b/d, said Mr. Darwazah.

Mr. Darwazah, who discussed the idea with his Iraqi counterpart while on a visit to Baghdad last week, said the idea was at its "very preliminary stages" and needed closer study.

However, he affirmed that it was a strategic decision to build the pipeline, which will replace the 200-plus tanker-trucks which ferry about 60,000 barrels of Iraqi crude and 20,000 barrels of fuel oil to Jordan every day.

"Our objective is to cover the needs of Jordan—namely 250,000 barrels of oil" by the year 2000, he told the Jordan Times in an interview. The first 100,000 b/d will be processed at the al-Zarqa' refinery and the rest would be pumped as and when a planned refinery is build at al-'Aqabah, he said.

According to a government study made available to the Jordan Times, rough estimates put the cost of 122-centimetre diameter pipeline at $1.4 billion, with $1 billion to be spent in Jordanian territory and the rest in Iraq. About $1.1 billion is estimated to be spent in local currency.

The same study also indicated that work on the pipeline should begin in 1996 and be complete by 1998, so that the expected rise in local demand for crude could be met in full.

The al-Zarqa' refinery has an installed processing capacity of 100,0000 b/d. The proposed refinery to be built at al-'Aqabah will have a similar capacity. The al-'Aqabah project is estimated to cost $500 million, and the implementation time is projected between 1996 and 2000.

Mr. Darwazah categorically denied reports that Jordan intended to export Iraqi oil through its territory. "We have no plans for (Iraqi oil) exports," he said. "If in the future there are needs for exports then a new pipeline will be built after the sanctions are lifted."

That was a reference to the crippling international trade embargo imposed against Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"At this stage, we are planning to (pump oil from) Hadithah to al-Zarqa', and whenever we have the plans finalised for the second refinery we will have the other (al-Zarqa'-to-al-'Aqabah) part of the pipeline," he said.

Jordan also wanted to replace the present form of transport of Iraqi oil to Jordan in tanker trucks—"which is very tedious and very costly"—the minister said.

Under the latest contract, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources pays JD [Jordanian dinars] 6.5 for a tonne of Iraqi crude to be trucked overland to al-Zarqa', he said. The owner of the truck gets JD 6.05 per tonne and the rest goes to the contracting company as insurance and management fees.

About 2,000 trucks are involved in the cross-border movement, with at least 200 trucks coming in very day.

Asked how the government viewed the prospect of the truckers losing the contracts as and when the pipeline is built, the minister said: "We hope that by the time we build the pipeline, there will be transportation needs from al-'Aqabah to Iraq and from al-'Aqabah to other parts of the country... that the economy will improve and the truckers will change their work from oil to other goods."

Mr. Darwazah said that during his recent visit to Baghdad, he also renewed the annual oil supply agreement between Iraq and Jordan.

The Iraqi oil supply to Jordan is exempted from the international sanctions against Baghdad since no cash is changing hands.

According to the minister, the oil is calculated at international market prices—reviewed on a monthly basis—less by "about $1 (per barrel) since we transport the oil."

Part of the oil comes in settlement of pre-Gulf crisis Iraqi debts to Jordan, and Amman settles the other part with food and medicine exports to Iraq.

Minister Meets Japanese Fact-Finding Mission

JN1404183695 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti received a Japanese delegation representing the Japanese Government, parliament, and press that is currently visiting the region on a fact-finding mission.

The delegation seeks to crystallize a host of ideas that could contribute to the materialization of Japanese support for the Middle East peace process. More relevant details are contained in the report compiled by Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, our correspondent for political affairs:

[Begin recording] Al-Kabariti reviewed with the Japanese fact-finding mission the Jordanian position on various issues, particularly the peace process and Jordan's efforts to augment and maintain it. In this regard, the foreign minister said Jordan's relentless efforts to establish peace in the region are motivated by its unmistakable eagerness to achieve a comprehensive, durable, just, and balanced peace in the region so that the peoples of the region may lead a dignified life.

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Al-Kabariti commended the growing Jordanian-Japanese ties. He also praised Japan's efforts to extend economic aid to Jordan. He added that Jordan looks forward to a forceful Japanese move to promote the cause of peace in the region through economic and financial aid to the region's peoples and states.

For his part, the head of the Japanese fact-finding mission, which represents the Japanese Government, parliament, and press, said Japan will play a vigorous and dynamic role in the future through the aid it will extend to the projects, initiatives, and ideas that could promote political and economic stability in the region.

The head of the Japanese delegation added that Japan's participation in the international conference on economic development in the Middle East and North Africa, due to convene in Amman in October, will be vigorous. This participation, he added, will certainly reflect Japan's concern for the future of the region's peoples and states. [end recording]

King Views Foreign Visits, University Clashes

JN1504191595 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Apr 95

[Interview with King Husayn by Jordan Television correspondents in Amman following his return home on 15 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent Kassab Samawi] To begin with, sir, allow me to say: Welcome home. We congratulate you on the positive results of your medical checkups.

[Husayn] God be praised. I thank you very much. God bless and preserve you. I am very grateful, appreciative, and indebted to all members of the dear Jordanian family for their noble and good feelings about my health. God be praised, everything is all right.

[Samawi] Sir, you recently pointed out that you, along with the government, will begin a wide move on the international level. Were your visits to Canada, the United States, and France part of this policy? How was this experience?

[Husayn] God be praised, all these visits were successful. We achieved great successes in the contacts held with various sectors of people at the highest levels of responsibility, with officials at various posts, and with the peoples we visited.

Naturally in France, my concern was to visit President Mitterrand who is an old and dear friend. He is now close to the end of his presidential term, during which he was a president for the whole French people. He has always been our friend.

In the United States, God be praised, the visit was successful in the full sense of the word. It is now clear that with regard to some issues, which were perhaps reflected on us and which we were concerned over, there is actually no need for this concern. This is so because the whole matter was one of differences, or of a phase of reorganization between the [U.S.] legislative branch and Administration. We in Jordan have nothing to do with this matter. They [the Americans] fully support us. God willing, in a short period of time results will be exactly as we wish. Their role is a pioneering one in light of their world responsibilities. They understand this and are fully aware of it. Hence, they will take steps toward supporting and backing Jordan in all fields, so we can contact others in this world who also have good and excellent feelings about us.

The visit to Canada was very successful and good. They are part of the Group of Seven. They also promised to support and back us. I also visited Britain on my way back home, God be praised.

[Unidentified correspondent] Sir, in light of the positive results of your visits to European states and the United States, what is required on the domestic level in terms of achieving more positive results, so the positive results achieved abroad will be entrenched on the domestic level?

[Husayn] If people want us to work and bring our country to what we aspire for in terms of progress, prosperity, and stability, then what is required is to stop one-upmanships. In fact, no one demonstrates one-upmanship against us on the Arab and domestic levels. It is high time for everyone to enable us to work. If we are actually a trade union in this country, then such a trade union is the House of Representatives which represents this entire people. Perhaps, in my capacity as the head of the three branches, I am the head of this whole trade union.

Let the trade unions do their work and pursue their professions which must be promoted. Let us work together and with one heart until we make this country an example and a model for others in terms of democracy—we should not encroach upon democracy in the name of democracy with the aim of making people hate democracy—as well as respect for human rights and for man whose head is always high. This is because Jordan has not failed to carry out its duties toward anyone. Anyone who asks Jordan to stay behind all others and await its own turn in order to address its own issues in the long run actually wants this country to end, so other issues will be resolved and no one will then care about Jordan. This should not be the case.

Naturally, on the other hand, even on our domestic level, we should perhaps be more cohesive than before. In other words, the differences, or the brawl, between two of our students was a domestic and simple matter that could have been resolved by these two students themselves. However, the world newspapers abroad viewed this as a problem between two strata of this community, which I actually view as a scandal.

It is time to end such matters once and for all. We want to work fast and build our country. We want to dedicate

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the remaining years of our life to keeping this country as a bright star in this entire region in the full sense of the word, God willing.

[Correspondent] In your presence, sir.

Foreign Minister on Hamas, Gulf Ties, Other Issues

JN1604101295 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 16 Apr 95 p 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti by Nabil Ghayshan on 15 April; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Ghayshan] What are the Jordanian diplomacy's priorities?

[Al-Kabariti] Foremost of the Jordanian diplomacy's tasks is to show that Jordan adheres firstly and primarily to the Arab option and that it seeks to realize detente in inter-Arab relations in order to help all Arab parties realize their goals, be this in the peace process or other areas pertinent to Arab strategic interests or Arab security.

[Ghayshan] What about the issue of Jordanians imprisoned abroad, especially in Egypt, Iraq, and Israel?

[Al-Kabariti] This issue was discussed in detail with the Egyptian Government during the meetings of the higher committee in Egypt. The interior minister discussed this issue with his Egyptian counterpart. Lists of prisoners' names were drafted and it was agreed with the Egyptian side to study these files in detail in order to take proper measures regarding these prisoners. I have no knowledge about the presence or number of Jordanian prisoners in Israel. No one has approached the Foreign Ministry to follow up this issue. As for the issue of prisoners in Iraq, it was discussed in detail with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Foreign Minister Muhammad al-Sahhaf. We had an Iraqi promise to study the files of Jordanian prisoners in Iraq in order to take proper measures at the earliest opportunity.

[Ghayshan] Can you provide the figure of these prisoners?

[Al-Kabariti] Available figures show that there are some 700 prisoners in Iraq. I do not have a specific figure for those imprisoned in Egypt. You can ask the interior minister about this.

[Ghayshan] Is it true that 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, Jordan's permanent UN representative, has submitted his resignation?

[Al-Kabariti] 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah has not submitted a written resignation. When any envoy submits his resignation, we will announce this officially and publicly. [passage omitted]

[Ghayshan] What is the reason for the delay in naming a new Jordanian ambassador to Syria to succeed the late Ahmad al- 'Adaiylah?

[Al-Kabariti] There is no delay. A new ambassador will be named within the forthcoming diplomatic appointments.

[Ghayshan] Is there anything new regarding your expected visit to Gaza?

[Al-Kabariti] The day before yesterday, President [Yasir] 'Arafat's envoy informed us that the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] has approved Ziyad al-Majali as Jordan's representative to the PNA. He will head for Gaza shortly in order to arrange for opening the [Jordanian] representation office there.

[Ghayshan] Do you intend to visit Israel?

[Al-Kabariti] Visiting Israel is not on my agenda as I head for the United States this morning (yesterday).

[Ghayshan] What is the nature of this U.S. visit, especially since you were there with his majesty the king a few days ago?

[Al-Kabariti] The purpose of the visit is to attend the conference on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and meet with the U.S. secretary of state on 18 April at his invitation. I will also meet with my Arab counterparts who will attend the conference. Thereafter, I will head for Bandung to attend the meeting of the Nonaligned states' foreign ministers in preparation for the Nonaligned states' conference scheduled to be held in Columbia next October.

[Ghayshan] What is the nature of your upcoming talks with the U.S. secretary of state?

[Al-Kabariti] Talks will follow up bilateral issues and are part of constant and direct contacts between me and the U.S. secretary.

[Ghayshan] The Palestinian leadership and its news media have been outraged by the recent statements by Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] official spokesman. Was this issue discussed between you and President 'Arafat's envoy?

[Al-Kabariti] We do not accept any party's allusion that there are organizations and offices in Jordan operating within the Jordanian law calling for violence to achieve political objectives.

Whoever works in the political field in Jordan must be licensed and must work within the rules of the democratic game, the ceiling of which is the Jordanian Constitution, law, and acceptance of the principle of renouncing violence and terrorism from any source.

[Ghayshan] Have you been officially asked to deport Ibrahim Ghawshah from Amman?

[Al-Kabariti] We have not been asked to deport anybody. Jordanian citizens carrying Jordanian passports are subjected to Jordanian law. We do not accept to be told how to deal with any party whatsoever.

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[Ghayshan] Have you begun to officially deal with the Palestinian passport?

[Al-Kabariti] Jordan was the first state to welcome, recognize, and announce its readiness to accept the Palestinian passport as an official document, and offered all required facilities. The West Bank and Gaza pilgrims will use the Palestinian passport. They will be respected and offered all facilities at the crossings between Palestine and Jordan.

[Ghayshan] There are conflicting reports on the relations between Jordan on the one hand and Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on the other. What is the reality of those relations?

[Al-Kabariti] Ceaseless efforts are needed to improve those relations. In the final analysis, we want our relations with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to be more comprehensive and stronger so as to reflect the true sentiments we have for our Saudi and Kuwaiti brethren.

[Ghayshan] Is it true that you met with the Saudi and Kuwaiti foreign ministers?

[Al-Kabariti] Yes. I met with the Kuwaiti and Saudi foreign ministers on the sidelines of the Arab League meetings. The two meetings were arranged thanks to the Bahraini foreign minister. Many issues were discussed with the Kuwaiti minister. I believe that there is a sincere and honest trend by the Jordanian and Kuwaiti sides to continue discussions to clear the atmosphere and restore normal relations. As for our relations with Saudi Arabia, they are ordinary relations. Our ambassador has presented his credentials and has been fully welcomed. Also, the Jordanian citizens in Saudi Arabia are treated well and with respect, something which we appreciate and value. In addition, Jordanian pilgrims' applications have received special Saudi treatment. I believe that time is proceeding toward the establishment of distinguished and excellent relations with Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

[Ghayshan] Is Jordan compelled to sign the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty?

[Al-Kabariti] The problem is not whether to sign or not to sign. Jordan was the first to sign and was among the contributors to the drafting of the treaty. We are parties to it and support it and its objectives. However, we are demanding that Israel be an indivisible part of the treaty so that its nuclear installations would be brought under strict international inspection. In coordination with Arab states, we will demand during the meeting that Israel join the treaty. If that proves impossible, some sort of control must be imposed on the Israeli nuclear armament and the Israeli nuclear centers. This is something that concerns our security and environment in Jordan. [passage omitted]

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Hizballah Official on 'Duty' To Confront Israelis

NC1504152895 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 7 Apr 95 p 14

[Interview with al-Hajj Husayn Khalil, head of Hizballah Political Bureau by H. 'Awwad; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Awwad] What is your response to the recent Israeli attacks and to the enemy leaders' statements that the bombardment of northern Israel is a violation of the July 1993 understanding?

[Khalil] First, I would like to say that the Zionists are enemies and usurpers. Therefore, there can be no agreements or understandings with them. As for the Katyusha rocket attacks, we have often said that when the Zionist enemy attacks villages and defenseless citizens and then avoids military confrontations, we are compelled to defend our kinsfolk and the civilians by bombarding their settlements or by deterring him with appropriate methods. The presence of the Zionist entity in this region constitutes a blatant attack on the Arabs and Muslims and its military presence in Lebanon is a link in the chain of its scheme to wreak havoc with our land and villages.

Therefore, resisting and confronting the Zionist occupation is more than a right to us. It's an ethical, national, and legitimate duty. We can exercise this right and we are free to forego it. But we can never escape from our duty and, therefore, foregoing one's duty is a national crime and high treason. Hence, the Islamic Resistance's operations are a national and legitimate duty. [passage omitted]

Needless to say, the Islamic Resistance men are confronting this criminal enemy face to face and on its own ground. The Resistance's strategy is not based on fighting from afar. Our men fight valiantly. But when the enemy flees from direct confrontation and uses its aircraft to strafe our villages and to spread terror among the people, we find it natural for the Resistance to deter it and spread terror in its settlements.

Paper: Israel Foments Palestinian Civil War

NC1404205795 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 12 Apr 95 p 1

[Article by Muhammad Mashmushi: "Civil War"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Apparently the Palestinians in Gaza, and of course the West bank and perhaps also in the diaspora, are actually moving in the direction in which Israel is pushing them and which they have long feared and tried to avoid. That is: a Palestinian civil war.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat accuses Israel of putting him, and the entire Palestinian nation, in this predicament by intentionally smuggling Israeli weapons into the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. 'Arafat's actions, however, are compatible with the aims of this intentional smuggling of Israeli weapons. For several days now he has been carrying out extensive arrests among the members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad and has threatened to disarm them. He has jailed one of their activists for life.

The crime and the criminal are evident to 'Arafat. Regardless of this, he is punishing those who can be described as the victims of the double crime of continued Israeli occupation and arms smuggling. 'Arafat has no excuse. Taking into account the fact that the accusation of smuggling and selling the weapons in question has been proven and the Israelis themselves are not denying it, the victims have the following excuse: They reject occupation and resist it with the same determination with which they reject the well-known "agreement", bearing in mind that the occupation authorities have implemented only those provisions of this agreement that serve their objective of pushing the Palestinians toward civil war.

Moreover, 'Arafat is complaining not only about Israel's smuggling of weapons, but also about its attempt not to implement any aspect of the agreement, such as redeploying its forces on the West Bank. He complains that Israel is obstructing the Palestinian Authority elections, expanding and reinforcing its settlements in all the occupied territories, particularly in Jerusalem, and totally isolating the Gaza Strip from Jericho. He complains that his protests and his attempts to make Washington, Moscow, or Cairo "mediate" are not succeeding in extricating him from his major predicament with Israel and the "agreement."

Let us admit that 'Arafat is really in a predicament, first of all with his partner in the "agreement" and secondly with the people over whom he is exercising authority. Actually, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's predicament with his party, government coalition, and coming elections is—according to nearly all Israeli and U.S. analyses—bigger and more complicated than 'Arafat's predicament with his opposition and the "agreement's" opponents, even when they resist this agreement with armed force. Nevertheless Rabin has not resorted to the method that he is constantly inciting 'Arafat to use, namely to strike the armed resistance opposed to them both, on the grounds that this resistance is "a relentless terrorism." Rabin of course does not see the Israeli terrorism typified by the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and other actions. Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman's recent threat to halt the entire peace process is merely the logical complement to the persistent Israeli incitement of 'Arafat to extricate himself from his predicament in any way, even through a Palestinian civil war.

Has 'Arafat really reached this most dangerous impasse that threatens him and the entire Palestinian nation?

All we can do is issue a warning to both parties to not even contemplate pushing matters to such a frightening point. We are not merely seeking to safeguard the

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growing Palestinian resistance to the occupation that started before the intifadah and continued during and after the intifadah. We are also seeking to protect 'Arafat himself, who was a symbol of this resistance for decades. Even some of 'Arafat's loyalists view this resistance now, despite everything, as a source of strength for him and for the spurious Palestinian Authority [PA] in the face of Israel's intransigence and its placing of obstacles in the PA's path. 'Arafat's predicament with this resistance, if you can call it that, is merely bitter medicine that will not cure the disease, just make it worse.

Israel's first and foremost objective in the period before the "agreement" and since the "agreement," has been to provoke a Palestinian civil war. Throughout history it has tried by all possible means to sell a theory called "a land without a people." Now, through the Palestinian civil war it is trying to provoke, it is attempting to transform this theory into "a land without a people who deserve to rule themselves."

If this happens, all the Palestinians, and even all the other Arabs, will be in the same boat.

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Vice President Mashariqah on Peace Process

JN1504145795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Apr 95 p 5

[Interview with Vice President Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah by Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Humaydi] How do you assess the status of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations?

[Mashariqah] The peace process continues to be stalemated, although more than three years have passed since its beginning. No substantial progress has been made since the convening of the Madrid conference on 30 October 1991. The years that followed the conference have passed in vain. The negotiations have been faltering because Israel seems not to be serious about the peace process and unwilling to make comprehensive and just peace in the region. Israel tries to circumvent the peace process and refuses to abide by Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. It seeks to evade the requirements of peace. It can be said that most of the negotiations held so far have been a waste of time and effort and have had no noteworthy result.

[Humaydi] What has prevented progress?

[Mashariqah] In general, the most important reason for lack of progress in the peace process is that Israel is unserious and unwilling to have peace.

[Humaydi] Then Israel does not seek peace?

[Mashariqah] Israel has a long-term strategy in the region. It is trying to implement this strategy in various ways. This strategy depends on an aggressive policy that targets the Arab land, nation, and right. Through its long-term objectives, Israel seeks to set up greater Israel within its alleged Torah borders. Israel wants to control the whole Arab region and its political, economic, military, and cultural resources. Israel seeks to have a leading role in the region based on its huge arsenal of various kinds of weapons, led by the weapons of mass destruction, and the unlimited support it receives.

[Humaydi] How do the efforts of some Arab parties to normalize relations with Israel affect this Israeli effort?

[Mashariqah] Israel is encouraged by the rush accompanied by relinquishment of rights and dignity shown by some Arab parties, and the rush by other parties to normalize relations with it, although the Arab territories are still occupied, the pan-Arab rights are still usurped, and Israel is still pursuing its aggressive expansionist policy by constructing settlements in the occupied Arab territories and expanding already established ones. Israel seeks to impose its illegitimate presence on the international community and continues its policy of Judaizing Jerusalem. The Israeli leaders do not miss a chance to declare that Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital. Israel continues the policy of terrorism and repression against the Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories. It besieges the coasts of southern Lebanon and practices a systematic brutal policy against the south and its people.

[Humaydi] The Israelis believe a Syrian declaration defining the nature of the peace that Damascus wants will achieve progress in negotiations.

[Mashariqah] Syria's position on the peace process is very clear. For us, peace is a strategic option. Syria is working for a comprehensive and just peace that will liberate the occupied Arab territories via Israel's withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines. Such a peace will regain usurped pan-Arab rights and provide security and stability in the region, and embody international legitimacy and its resolutions.

Everyone knows Syria seeks peace in accordance with the Madrid formula and the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly resolutions 242, 338, and 425 as well as the land-for-peace principle and the formula of full peace in return for full withdrawal.

All this stems from Syria's pan-Arab and national constants, so there will be no bargaining over any right or sellout of any iota of soil. As far as fateful issues are concerned, Syria does not follow anyone's example. No one on Earth can involve it in something it does not want.

[Humaydi] Were there any developments in the negotiating style of the Israelis in the recent round between Syrian Ambassador Walid al-Mu'allim and Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich?

[Mashariqah] In the negotiations, the Israelis still employ the method of wasting both time and efforts and of preoccupation with marginal matters which are far away from the substance of the issues raised for discussion.

They also circumvent the peace process in order to achieve objectives that are part of their long-term strategy. They want to end the boycott immediately, normalize relations with the Arab states, and establish diplomatic relations with them. Meanwhile, they refuse to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and ultimately seek to dominate the Arab region and control its political, economic, military, and cultural resources.

[Humaydi] What is the Syrian position on the file carried by Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the peace process, to Damascus and Israel?

[Mashariqah] We cling to the fact that the arrangements should be reciprocal [mutaqabilah], equitable [mutakafi'ah], equal [mutasawiyah], and balanced [mutawazinah] on both sides. Remember, Syria and other Arab parties have been victimized by the aggressive and expansionist policy Israel is pursuing. Therefore, it is Syria and other Arab parties that need security arrangements rather than Israel, which has a huge arsenal of conventional weapons that is constantly enhanced with sophisticated arms. Israel is also concerned about being a large nuclear power that can dominate the region through its weapons of mass destruction.

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Afghanistan

Taleban Leaders Call For Jihad Against Rabbani

LD1504113095 Tehran IRNA in English 1109 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Apr. 15, IRNA—Militant Afghan student militia have vowed to wage holy war against the , "illegal and un—Islamic," government of President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

A large number of Taleban leaders and followers drawn from eastern Afghanistan met in Khost provinces and unanimously described Rabbani's regime as un-Islamic and called for waging of jihad against it.

Taleban took up arms last autumn to purge their war-stricken country from "war-mongering" Afghan mujahideen leaders, and drove forces of main opposition leader Golboddin Hekmatyar out of their headquarters, Chahar Asiab, south of Kabul after taking one third of the country by storm.

But student militia failed to dislodge Rabbani's nominal government based in Kabul.

Taleban leaders told [the] Khost gathering that they had enough power to oust Rabbani and his allies from Kabul. They said, "it has become obligatory on [the] Afghan nation to get rid of Rabbani and launch a massive attack on Kabul," that was earlier repulsed by government forces.

They also hinted on launching attack on eastern Nangarhar province currently run by a joint council drawn from various Afghan groups. While Taleban are bracing for jihad against Rabbani, the government forces are poised for an imminent attack on student militia in western Farah province, Afghan sources said.

Rabbani forces are likely to launch attack on Taleban in the next few days on the front-line located east of Shindabad Air Base.

Rabbani, who recently visited his troops in the area, described Taleban as "agents of foreign powers," but did not name their sponsors.

Government, Taleban Prepare for New Battles

LD1604151495 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0240 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Taleban and the Kabul administration are making preparations for new battles. Reports received by Message of Freedom Radio and TV say that after fighting for a month, the Taleban and the government have reached a military stalemate. Despite continual clashes in recent days, neither side has succeeded in making any advances. The report adds that the two warmongering sides are making preparations for fighting in the Farah Rud area, and both sides have sent a large number of troops to the frontline in the area. The same report says that yesterday the Kabul administration Air Force bombarded Taleban positions in Farah Rud. There is a possibility of the resumption of heavy fighting in the area at any moment.

India

Commentary, Reaction to Visit by Iran's Rafsanjani

Rao Comments on Ties With Iran

LD1504153595 Tehran IRNA in English 1413 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, April 15, IRNA—On the eve of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to India, the Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao gave an interview to Iran newspaper [as received]. The following is the full text of the interview.

Q. What in your view is the current status of Indo-Iran relations and the efforts that the two countries are making to promote regional cooperation in this part of asia.

A. I would like to say that in the last few years our relations have improved ernormously. We have come much closer to identify several areas of cooperation, particulary economic cooperation. My visit to Iran sometimes back was extremely sucessful and useful in this regard. I was able to have very many good discussions with President Rafsanjani and other Iranian leaders. I could find the depth of friendship and warmth which the people of Iran have towards the people of India. His excellency, the president's visit to India is going to be another very important chapter in the building of Indo-Iran relations. We are looking forward to his visit with a view to further intensify our relationship.

Q. Historical links between India and Iran particularly in cultural and lingusitsic areas, provide immense possibilities of cooperation to build upon. Have these potentials been exploited well?

A. We are very much conscious of these relations. And on both sides there have been several attempts to build on these relations. But one can always do better than what has been done. I think the full scope of building up on these relations needs to be further explored and implemented. I agree that there are many things which can be done in addition to what has been done. The link between Persian and many other languages in India is one example of the goodwill. There is a lot that Indian languages have borrowed from Persian and most of their terminology is derived from Persian. People don't know that this is so. But the fact is that this is so. Historically, Persian was the offical language here in India, not only in the Mughol period but during the same period in many other states. Many rulers introduced this language as their state language. Most of our historical and revenue records, as well as travel accounts are in Persian. Many

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historical sources too are in Persian. They have been translated into many Indian languages. From that point of view, I feel there is a vast scope to improve upon these linguistic affinities. The affinity being that Persian and Indian languages belong to the same group of languages. I think this can be further expanded and deepened in many respects.

Q. Despite all the talk of South-South cooperation, most of the conflicts are localised in the region. What do you think prevents normalization of relations among them. And why have progress on relations between the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries remained stranded?

A. Well, I think, we are looking only at the dark side. There is the bright side also. Historically, there have been many close affinities. At the same time suspicions and distrusts have also surfaced at times. In the region, it is possible that countries do not have identical views on all matters, as a result of which difference of opinions manifest themselves as tensions here and there. But I must assure you that things have changed. They are changing fast and regional cooperation is becoming a reality. I can see that between, say, 1980 and today the amount and quality of regional cooperation, has definitely improved. I do not say that everything has been solved. There are matters between nations in the region on which they do not see eye to eye. But the very logic of being neighbours and the very logic of regional cooperation and its usefullness has its force. I am sure that in the course of time all these small angularities will be removed and we will have much better relations. There are certain principles. For instance, respect for each other's sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs of each other. These are some of the very wholesome principles. They are accepted but sometimes they are also violated. Sometimes they are not fully implemented. At times when terrorist activities coming from across the border, whether it is country A or country B, there is tension. When this tension spreads in the region, you see nothing is possible as long as the tension lasts. So we have to remove the tensions and bring the tensions down by cooperation. Particularly, important in bringing down all these tensions is economic cooperation. Unfortunately, in some areas economic cooperation has not yet taken off, particularly, in SAARC. We have cooperation in many other fields. They have been identified, we have done some good works. SAARC has done some very very good work, but at the same time economic cooperation, that is what we give to one another as concessions in trade and which is what really binds people together, has yet to materialize. You can see benefits of such cooperation in other regions. I am hoping that in the forthcoming summit of SAARC, which we are going to have in the month of May in Delhi, some of these intractable questions will become easier to solve.

Q. What are the obstacles in the path of better relations between India and Iran, if any? How can they be solved?

A. Not at all. I don't see any obstacles. So the question of removing the obstacles will not arise. As I see it, our relations are improving by the day. So I can only see them improving all the time, and more and more areas being identified for cooperation. For instance, when I came to Iran we spoke a lot about how we get into such friendly arrangements and cooperation with the CIS. Now we are both very keen on that. We thought of railway lines, we thought of roads, we thought of many things to connect those countries. President Rafsanjani was very enthusiastic. So am I. After that, I sent my railway minister to Iran, who had a very fruitful discussion with Iranian authorities. He came back and reported positively to me. Like that we have so many areas to discuss. If we can get down to actual implementation, and get into the integrity of this cooperation and areas of cooperation. That will be the best way of coming still closer. I hope it will be possible for us to at least pick up a few projects where we go ahead and tie up things actually and start work. There is a very ambitious programme of getting gas from Iran. The president was very enthusiastic, so was I. That is being negotiated. If a huge project like this materializes, works start, then that will be the real impetus for further cooperation. So nothing succeeds like success. So we have to get to start these projects and get to actual implementation. This is my way of looking at things. And I am expecting that this visit will be very useful from that point of view.

Q. Do you see any hitch in the implementation of these projects?

A. I do not know. I have not really got the reports yet. It is such a huge project that there will be some technical and other difficulties as we go along. But because this is not being tried before on this scale, I understand that it is a very ambitious project. The feasibility is being studied and I do not think that there will be any insurmountable difficulties. There will be difficulties for such a huge project which is being taken up for the first time. We can not expect every thing to be really made because nobody has merit now. We will have to go into all these things. There are many aspects which have to be examined. The Petroleum Ministry is examining these. The petroleum minister tells me that things are under control. We will have occassions to look into these and see how it works out.

Q. You are aware of the fall-out of the Persian Gulf war and the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf. Does the presence of these forces in the region not generate fresh tensions all around?

A. I think there must be regional consensus built upon that issue. That is the only way of solving the problem. No one from outside can suggest anything. It is for the Persian Gulf countries to evolve a consensus. I have always felt so, and do so even now.

Q. Iran and India are understood to be deliberating on a loose but definite association among India, Iran and

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China. Is your government considering measures to concretise this vital cooperation for peace and stability in the region?

A. Well, at the moment we do not have any concrete plan like this. But the point is that regional cooperation among all countries in the region is necessary. We have very good relations with China. We have excellent relations with Iran. And by that logic, the entire area should have friendship among all the the big countries. Whether we should single out two or three or four countries, by any special kind of arrangement, I am not sure about that. But generally in the area itself, the prevailing condition should be one of friendship and cooperation. Once we start on this methodology, I am sure that we will be able to detect and identify more and more areas in which such cooperation is possible.

Q. Are you going to identify these areas in your discussions with President Rafsanjani?

A. I am sure. You see, when President Rafsanjani and I have discussions, several areas will be covered. Several items will be covered. I do not have any structured agenda in front of me. But we two are such good friends. He has been so kind to me. He has been so open with me in his discussions and so have I been, for a number of years. So I am sure that we will discuss a lot of things.

Commentary on Visit

BK1604093395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Apr 95

[Commentary by M.K. Tikku]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran's President Hashemi-Rafsanjani who arrives in New Delhi tomorrow on a three-day official visit is bound to notice a change at highest hand [as heard] that the Iranian side would have taken into account earlier. The change is that the principle idiom of the language of diplomacy in the Indian capital now is dominated by issues concerning economic cooperation. It would be no more a coincidence that the enlarging areas of economic cooperation between India and Iran will constitute a major component of the agenda that the Iranian leader will be discussing with the Indian leaders. The composition of the delegation that President Rafsanjani will be heading thus give an idea of the likely issues that would dominate the talks. Apart from Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the delegation will comprise of ministers of higher education and science, culture, petroleum, besides two deputy ministers and a select group of Iranian businessmen.

About half a dozen memoranda of understanding are expected to be signed during the visit covering subjects including promotion of tourism, trade, and culture. Of particular interest to India is an agreement expected to be signed during the visit providing for transit trade with Central Asia through Iran. Expanding trade with Iran itself has considerable potential. As a result of this visit, India may take up two railway construction projects in Iran, besides the contract for building a fertilizer factory. India, on its part, would like to buy larger quantities of petroleum while plans for building a gas pipeline still remains at an exploratory stage.

But there is much more to the Iranian president's visit than promotion of bilateral trade. Last October, President Rafsanjani had to cancel his proposed visit to this country. According to some observers, pressure from certain hardline elements in Tehran had something to do with the change of their decision. President Rafsanjani's government now appears to be particularly keen to project an image of a moderate state. This might have been necessitated by attempts by certain Western countries to project Iran backer of extremist forces and international pariah. It may perhaps be a part of the exercise to project the moderate image that the visiting president is taking time off to address a seminar on religious tolerance during his stay in India. Be that as it may, a lot of people in this country feel pleased about what President Rafsanjani told an Indian journalist in Tehran earlier this week. He said neither communalism nor terrorism is something to be supported.

Welcomed by Rao at Airport

LD1704093895 Tehran IRNA in English 0844 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, April 17, IRNA—Iran's President Rafsanjani, accompanied by a high power 100-member delegation, arrived here Monday morning on a three-day visit to India.

The Iranian president was received at Palam airport at Delhi by Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao himself, beside other cabinet members.

Rao's presence at the airport broke all the protocol as since 1989 any Indian prime minister has not traveled to the airport to receive a state guest, even British Prime Minister John Major, South African President Nelson Mandela and Russian President Boris Yeltsin. This shows the importance attached by India to Rafsanjani's visit.

Rao then personally took Rafsanjani to Rashtrapati Bhavan (president's house) where he was accorded the ceremonial welcome, with Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma being present there.

Rafsanjani was given a 21-gun salute and inspected a guard of honor by the three wings of defence services of India.

Later talking to press persons, Rafsanjnai said that the main purpose of his visit was to 'deepen relations between India and Iran'.

During Rafsanjani's stay, six agreements are to be signed between the two countries, notably the ones on the multi-billion dollar natural gas pipeline from Iran to India and on the opening of transit route from India to Central Asia.

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Among the programs of Rafsanjani there also includes an address to the joint session of parliament on Tuesday evening, although both the houses of parliament are in recess.

The last visiting head of the state having addressed Indian parliament was Boris Yeltsin two years ago. But at that time parliament was in session and it was in keeping with the tradition of the head of state from Moscow having always addressed Indian parliament.

The other programs of Rafsanjani include an address to the Indo-Iranian Friendship Society, the inauguration of an international congress on Naha-Jul-Balagha and a visit to Lucknow, capital of northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh (U.P.), to address intellectuals and religious scholars and meet U.P. chief minister Mulayam Singh Yadav.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayeti and Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidence Mostafa Mirsalim and Minister of Science and Higher Education Hashemi-Golpayegani are also accompanying the visiting president.

'Time is Ripe' for Dialogue

BK1704142495 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 17 Apr 95 p 8

[Article by Jahangir Khan: "The Persian Overture"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The much awaited, long delayed, visit of the Iranian President Mr 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to India (which was earlier postponed ostensibly due to plague in October 94) beginning today has sparked off mixed hopes and anxieties in both the countries although an Iranian diplomat sounded very persuasive when he said that "politically the time is ripe for India to co-operate with Iran. We see india as a good country with which we share common concerns".

Iran and India have co-operated in the past at various international fora and worked together in the UN General Assembly. As members of NAM [Nonaligned Movement] both have experience of working together and will continue to do so in the future. For instance last year the Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Velayati's presence at the eighth meeting of the Indo-Iranian joint commission and his attempts to make amends for the earlier cancellation of his President's visit on flimsy grounds, is evident in the dichotomy in Iran's policy towards India, inevitably dictated by Iran's contradictory foreign policy objectives.

In the post-Cold War era, there is convergence of geostrategic interests between the two countries which cannot be undone by either Islamic radicalism of Iran or by India's diplomatic thrust towards the West arising from the latter's economic liberalisation. In this context, it is important to note that it was Iran, along with China, whose diplomatic dexterity forced Pakistan to withdraw the resolution condemning India's human rights record in Kashmir at the Human Rights Conference in Geneva last year.

Tehran also understood India's predicament when it under pressure from the US, backed out from an agreement to help Iran to build a nuclear power plant.

However, the issue of Kashmir is still a major irritant between India and Iran, Iran's ambivalent stand on the vital issue of Kashmir is not welcomed by South Block, Iran-being an Islamic republic, wants to protect the cause of the Islamic radicals in Kashmir. The late Ayatollah Khomeyni's rigid approach towards Kashmir put India in a dilemma. However, after his assumption of power, the pragmatist Mr Rafsanjani has amply demonstrated that this rigid religious posturing of the Khomeni era had no place in his foreign policy. But it is still doubtful whether Mr Rafsanjani will bring fresh winds of change on Kashmir or the ghost of his predecessor will continue to haunt.

As far as history goes, India and Iran, with ancient civilizations and common racial origin, are important cultural forces in their regions and have common bonds since time immemorial. Indo-Iranian relations have acquired distinct significance in the emerging power configuration of the New World Order, Their status as regional powers have the potential to undermine the strength of structural asymmetry of the New World order and to recover the political and economic space for the Third World.

In modern times their bonds have been consolidated by many treaties and agreements, including a treaty of friendship trade and maritime agreements, air and cultural accords.

After the islamic revolution of 1979, the trade relations between the two countries has improved substantially. During the reign of Ayatollah Khomeyni the bilateral relations on trade went through a turbulent phase and trade figures declined to around $98 million in 1987. But after Mr Rafsanjani came to power it had gained momentum and reached upto $778 million in 1992. Especially oil and natural gas plays an important role in the economic cooperation. Iran has 93 billion barrels of petroleum resources. It has 8 per cent of the world's reserves. Iran is currently producing around 3.3 billion barrels a day. The construction of an oil refinery, and collaboration with India and Italian firms to produce oil offshore in the Persian Gulf have contributed to the diversification of commercial ties between the two countries.

The major export items of India to Iran are rice, tea, metals, machinery, processed minerals, plastic products, transport equipments, electronic goods, man made yarns and project goods. The major import items of India from Iran are petroleum, organic chemicals, professional instruments and optical goods. Apart from this, both the countries have agreed for a joint-venture in the railway

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sectors. The Iranian government is keen to consider the expertise of the Indian Railways in the completion of Bafgh-Mashad, Kerman-Zahedan, Shabroad-Mashad and Garmsar-Corgan railway projects.

Iran is also anxiously looking into the propsals made by the Indian companies for the completion of Korman Thermal Power Station, Tehran Metro Workshop and Khuzestan Sugar Complex.

President Rafsanjani's visit will definitely inaugurate a new era for Indo-Iranian relationship in the days to come.

Iran

Radio on NPT Revision, U.S. 'Double Standards'

NC1704083295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 17 Apr 95

[Commentary from the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Discussions on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] will begin at the United Nations today. These discussions start at a time when the views of the various governments on this pact are very different.

The convention expired late last [Iranian] year [ending 20 March] and the discussions that will begin at the United Nations today are to clarify the situation of the Treaty. In relation with this, America and the NATO members in general are striving to renew the pact with its former content for an unlimited time and striving for increased international supervision of the nonproliferation of nuclear arms.

The developing countries believe the unlimited renewal of this pact is an effort to preserve the current situation in which the use of nuclear energy is monopolized by some big countries. Thus, these countries want the content of the former convention to be revised and global efforts to be aimed at the destruction of nuclear arms and at limiting the use of nuclear energy to peaceful purposes.

In addition to the differences of opinion between the West and the developing countries on the future of this pact, America's double standards on this convention have placed many political obstacles in front of the renewal of the pact. America's insistence on the unconditional adherence of Arab countries to the pact and the White House's support for the Zionist regime's stance on nonadherence to the pact comprise one of the unjustifiable problems that can overshadow the current talks.

The Arab governments previously stated that Israel's access to nuclear arms is a threat to their national security and that this is why they will renew the Treaty only when Israel joins the pact, when this aggressive regime's nuclear arms are destroyed, and when its atomic reactors are placed under international supervision.

Political analysts believe that since the Arab world consists of 21 countries and their stance on this issue enjoys the support of the world of Islam and of the developing countries, it is possible that if these countries insist on their stance, the current discussions will be overshadowed by this political issue, thus bringing to light part of the West's hegemonistic behavior.

Rafsanjani Addresses SNSC on U.S. 'Pressure'

LD1504174495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Please listen to news just in: The Supreme National Security Council [SNSC] met this evening under the chairmanship of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The president expressed his deep regret over the passing away of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, and praised the effective and important role he played as the representative of the eminent leader in previous SNSC meetings. He prayed for God's mercy for the dear deceased one.

Those present at the meeting discussed and examined the recent actions taken and stances adopted by U.S. officials with regard to the imposition of economic pressure on Iran, and its efforts to persuade other countries to follow the hostile policies of the White House against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The SNSC stressed that accusations made by the United States are groundless, and expressed certainty—in view of past historical experience and the actual reality since the coming into existence of the Islamic Republic of Iran—about the ineffectiveness of such pressures due to the steadfastness, wisdom, and selflessness of the great Iranian nation; the solidity of the national economic structure; the realistic outlook of, and the confidence prevailing over Iran's foreign relations with important countries of the world, and those countries' suspicions toward the biased policies and behavior of the United States.

The SNSC referred to the obvious differences existing within the U.S. Administration in connection with the imposition of pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran, describing it as a confrontation between realism and blind hostility. The SNSC described the position adopted by the heads of America's diplomatic machinery as a manifestation of their misguided analysis of the realities of the new world—something which has led to U.S. foreign policy failures in various arenas during the rule of the Democratic Party.

Cancellation of Share in Caspian Oil Deal Viewed

NC1504101995 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 Apr 95 p 2

[From the "For Your Information" column: "The Republic of Azerbaijan Has Handed Over Iran's Share in the Northern Caspian Sea Oil Consortium to America"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan has announced that under U.S. pressure, it has canceled Iran's partnership in the northern Caspian Sea oil consortium!

Azerbaijan's presidential adviser Vafa Gholizadeh expressed regret on rejecting Iran's request for participation in the agreement between the Republic and a consortium of Western oil companies and Turkey, and announced Baku's readiness for cooperation with Tehran to explore other oil fields in the Republic.

Pointing out that the Republic of Azerbaijan supported Iran's participation in the agreement and that he did not blame the Republic for having rejected the National Iranian Oil Company's [NIOC] participation in the consortium, he stressed that this decision was made because of opposition by the American companies. He expressed the hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran will understand the Republic of Azerbaijan's current situation.

Related to this, Aliyev, head of the Republic of Azerbaijan's state oil company—in an attempt to calm the situation and to control possible steps by Iran—stated that Azerbaijan is ready to cooperate with Iran in exploring other oil fields in the Republic.

It should be noted that the agreement on granting 5 percent of the shares in the said agreement to the NIOC was signed in Aban [month ending 21 November 1994] during [Iranian Petroleum Minister] Aqazadeh's visit to Baku.

Last week, the Republic of Azerbiajan handed over 5 percent of the shares in this agreement to the American company Exxon and 5 percent more to the Turkish Oil Company.

Iranian official circles in the Foreign Ministry and Petroleum Ministry have not yet reacted to this step by the Republic of Azerbaijan.

View on Arab Reaction to Israeli 'Spy' Satellite

LD1604122395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1010 GMT 16 Apr 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to AFP, the launch of a spy satellite by Israel has turned into a controversial issue in Arab countries. The Arab world's various political and press circles have expressed strong criticism of this suspicious act. The latest reports indicate that Qatari news sources have also joined those criticizing and opposing this act and have expressed their extensive opposition in this regard.

According to AFP, the Arab world's political circles are criticizing their governments' inaction or slow response to the matter.

According to political circles in the Arab world, the Israeli spy satellite, which was built and launched with America's assistance, allows Tel Aviv to control Arab countries militarily, an action which casts doubt on the Zionist regime's peace-seeking claims. It will also reveal Washington's dubious aims in its support for the Zionist regime. It is clear that some Arab countries, because they have given extensive military and economic concessions to America, can have extra expectations from Washington. They can also consider America's support for Tel Aviv in this regard as a treacherous act. The Arab states had previously questioned similar supports for Tel Aviv's nuclear installations.

Obviously, the Arab world's political and media circles and the public opinion seem right in this regard and Arab governments and international organizations should pay attention to these extensive opposition to the launch of the Israeli satellite spy. In fact, it is the Arab governments that should protect their own countries' territorial integrity and absolute and integral independence against Israel's numerous acts of aggression, and adopt strong and unassailable stances against any kind of dubious action by the Zionist regime which would prepare the ground for future acts of aggression. Even though weak, the opposition to the Israeli nuclear installations has resulted in certain satisfactory consequences for Arab nations. It is thought that this issue too will be discussed and investigated at an international atomic energy conference.

In any case, what is certain is that the Arab world's media and public media have a grave responsibility at the current critical conditions. Despite appearances, the Arab world's media should try and inform the public about Tel Aviv's dubious actions and particularly the launch of the spy satellite as well as the stockpiling of nuclear weapons.

Turkey Claims Iraqi Withdrawal in 'Immediate Future'

LD1604125195 Tehran IRNA in English 1235 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 16, IRNA—Turkish foreign minister, Erdal Inonu, said in a message to his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Sunday [16 April] that Turkey honors Iraq's territorial integrity and will withdraw its troops from northern Iraq in an immediate future.

Inonu's special envoy to Tehran, Gun Gor who delivered the message to Velayati, also briefed him on the Turkish military operation in northern Iraq in the last month and Ankara's positive reaction to the international pressure to withdraw from the Iraqi soil.

Turkey launched an extensive military operation in northern Iraq to mop up the Turkish separatisit guerrillas (PKK) [Workers Party of Kurdistan] who set up bases in the area.

Velayati said Iran supports the territorial integrity of Iraq and that the borders should not undergo any infringement. For years the issue of honoring Iraq's

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territorial integrity has been the basis for negotiations between foreign ministers of Iran, Syria and turkey in their tripartite talks, he said.

The forthcoming meeting of Iran, Turkey and Syria will be held in Isfahan later this month. The last trilateral meeting of the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey and Syria was held in Damascus last August.

Daily Questions Turkish Incursion Into Iraq

LD1604100595 Tehran IRNA in English 0918 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 16, IRNA—An English-language morning daily, editorializing on Turkey's recent incursion on northern Iraq and its intention to withdraw from the region in the coming weeks, posed several questions on the objective of Turkey's movement.

"What were Turkey's objectives and with what kind of coordination did it launch these operations? Why did Europe and the West, as the claimants of human rights the world over, give the go-ahead for these operations and gave Turkey ample elbow-room?', asked IRAN NEWS.

The article added that Turkey by using some 35,000 troops, initiated air and ground invasions on northern Iraq under the pretext of suppressing the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] concentrations there.

No news were released on the casualty breakdown on both sides and the maneuvers of the Kurdish and Turkish troops, the editorial said, adding that the only news items were those issued by the spokesmen of the Turkish armed forces.

The article said that the oil-rich northern Iraq has all along been coveted by the foreign powers-and even Saddam himself to the extent that none of them was ready to leave the said region.

"How successful was Turkey in reaching its aims and objectives?', argued the article, adding, "Why did Turkey decide to put an end to these operations despite initial declarations that these would last until this summer? What benefits did others gain from these operations?" argued the daily.

The article concluded by saying that the Government of Turkey should address itself to such questions after the end of its military operations in northern Iraq.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Leaves for India, Georgia

NC1704060295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani left Tehran this morning at the head of a high-ranking political-economic delegation on a five-day visit to India and Georgia. The Central News Unit reports that Hashemi-Rafsanjani left for New Delhi and was officially seen off by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Mohammadi- Golpayegani, who heads the esteemed leader's office, First Vice President Habibi, and several Majles deputies.

Before leaving Tehran the president was interviewed by our correspondent and explained the objectives behind his visit to India. The main topics to be discussed with Indian officials will be expanding bilateral relations and studying regional and international issues.

Commenting on his visit to Georgia and the topics to be discussed with officials there, he said: The problems of the Caucasus and Central Asia as well as economic and political cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran on the bilateral, regional, and international levels are among the points to be discussed on the visit to Georgia.

Accompanying the president on his visit to India are the ministers of foreign affairs, petroleum, culture and higher education, and culture and Islamic guidance as well as Majles deputies.

Comments on Ties With India, U.S.

LD1504185995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview today with the Hindustan [India] press, radio, and television delegation, President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani underlined the respect the Islamic Republic of Iran feels for and the importance it attaches to India for its history, its attainment of independence, and its achievements since independence, as well as its rich cultural heritage. He said: I will be visiting India in view of that country's large population, the presence of Muslims in that country, the good relations between myself and the president and prime minister of India, and our shared viewpoints about regional and international issues.

The president said that the focal point of the discussions during the visit would be the consolidation and expansion of ties and cooperation in all areas. Referring to the main obstacles impeding regional cooperation—such as the differences between India and Pakistan—Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Both countries lose in this dispute and we have expressed the willingness, if both sides agree, to enter into talks with them and mediate. However, we have not had a serious response yet.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the importance of the Kashmir problem and the unacceptability of the current situation, saying: Things must be done in such a way that, as well as meeting the satisfaction of the people of that region, the two countries [India and Pakistan] will also not find themselves confronting one another needlessly; I believe solutions exist that would respect the interests of the Muslims of India and we must bear all the different aspects of the issue in mind in view of our good relations with India and Pakistan.

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In connection with the increase in U.S. pressure on Iran and ways of dealing with it, the president said: We are not worried about U.S. pressure. Our relations with the United States have always been hostile, both before and after the revolution. The United States, too, has always behaved with enmity whenever possible throughout this period. If we were worried, we would think of a way and try to cure this hostility in our relations. But we are not interested in this and there is no reason why we should cooperate with the United States. This is a policy that has been chosen deliberately both on our side and on the side of the Americans, because the United States does not wish to tolerate the Islamic revolution of Iran and because we are not prepared to accept U.S. bullying.

With regards to U.S. pressure on Russia to prevent the sale of nuclear reactors to Iran, the president said: I think it is unlikely that the Russians would accept the shame and the insult of having policies dictated by the United States to such a big country as Russia and that they would abandon an agreement to which they have put their signature. Russia's officials have promised us that they will stand by their decisions and, in view of the propaganda surrounding this issue, Russia's prestige really depends on carrying out this agreement.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the following in relation to U.S. accusations that the Islamic Republic of Iran supports terrorism: The United States always speaks against us without reasons or evidence. We, however, can support our claim that the United States supports terrorism. The terrorists, who have detonated dozens of bombs in Iran, martyring hundreds of people, have their offices in the United States and are supported by America. They receive help from the United States. Israel, too, commits acts of terrorism on a daily basis in southern Lebanon and is supported by the United States.

We have good relations with the Hezbollah movement and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], who are fighting Israel because their country is occupied. Their action is based on justice and we defend and support justice. We accept anyone who struggles to save Palestine.

In relation to our country's stance with regard to peace talks in the Middle East, the president said: We have no active or implementational opposition role there, but our view is that this peace is not correct or just in its current shape and form. The rights of the Palestinians have not been fulfilled, the fate of the Palestinian strugglers and Jerusalem has not been clarified and, in addition to this, the Israelis do not believe in peace and are indulging in opportunism. He explained: We expect the world to be open-minded enough to accept that a government has the right to express its opinion without interfering with any action; no one has the right to complain against this.

The president said the following in connection with the ties between Iran and India: We are not satisfied with the current level of ties and we must cooperate more. Maybe we will be able to clarify this during the course of the talks we will hold in India. As to the use of Iran as a transit for India to Central Asia, no limitations exist in this connection and India can use all our linking facilities and we will probably sign an agreement in this regard.

Views Relations With Georgia

LD1604210595 Tehran IRNA in English 2016 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 17, IRNA—President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Sunday [16 April] told a visiting press delegation from the Republic of Georgia that relations between Iran and that country are "very friendly" and the two countries could further broaden their cooperation in the academic, economic and cultural areas.

He said in his answer to a question posed to him by the Georgian press delegation on Iran's policy:

"Our foreign policy dictum is to have relations with all countries with the priority being on Muslim states, our neighbouring countries, third world nations and the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union. We are particulalry interested in Central Asian and Transcaucasus countries of which yours is one typical example. You know the extent of cultural relations between Iran and the Republic of Georgia in the past."

On the issue of women's rights, he said Islamic Iran is very much concerned about the rights of women. "My own suggestion to the Iranian women is that they try to get a fuller education, get college education and help mature their personality. We have been successful in that undertaking. Currently 36 per cent of our college students are female students. We have upwards of 100,000 female students. Also nearly 40 per cent of our teachers and high school teachers are women, and women are free to engage in whatsoever social or economic activity."

On reconstruction, Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is scheduled to visit Georgia on April 19, said: "After the war, we considered a decade during which to reconstruct our country with two 5-year development plans. In the first plan we undertook major infrastructural projects in all sectors. We made infrastructural planning in the area of agriculture, industries, oil and gas, petrochemicals, telecommunications, steel industry, and aluminum so that each and every one of those sectors would eventually be as active as our oil indistry. We have also made substantial investments on our transportation and railway projects."

He said the terms of the First 5-Year Plan cosat Iran about dlrs 100 billion in terms of foreign exchange.

"We have had special concern about our colleges and universities in which I am personally interested. I think by inaugurating projects and by visiting on-going projects as well as putting projects into operation, I help speed up the tempo of the on-going projects.

The second development plan which started this March, said the president, enables the Iranians to see the fruits of the first plan.

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"Now we are only starting to exploit those projects, there are other projects we must complete and there is another five years to go," he concluded.

Pakistan

Commentary, Reaction to Bhutto's U.S. Visit

Leghari: 'Major Breakthrough'

BK1604101295 Islamabad THE NATION in English 16 Apr 95 pp 1, 5

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Kalayan (Awarakzai Agency)—President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has appreciated Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's firm stand and strong determination of not yielding to the US pressure on the issue of Pakistan's nuclear programme. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the Premier's visit to the United States, the President said: "In my view it is a major breakthrough in Pakistan's foreign front that it (Pakistan) sticks to its firm and just stand on the country's nuclear plan." He maintained that the government and the people of Pakistan are unanimous on one point that they will never bow before any pressure whenever the question of national interests arises. "There is no room left to give anything to the superpower," the President remarked. [passage omitted]

President Leghari said due to effective foreign policy of the government, the lone superpower of the world had changed its policy towards Pakistan and a significant breakthrough had been achieved on the external front.

He said the United States had accepted Pakistan's stand and realised that the United States attitude towards Pakistan was unjust and discriminatory. He described it a remarkable achievement of the foreign policy and the government of Pakistan that it did not deviate from its principled stand and convinces the superpower to change its policy. [passage omitted]

Bhutto Remarks on 'Success'

BK1604142295 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 16 Apr 95

[Italicized passages recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said the success of her visit to the United States is evident from the fact that our approach on nuclear nonproliferation and our stand on Kashmir have been vindicated. Addressing a news conference on her arrival from her visit to the United States, she said President Clinton's public admission that the Pressler Amendment is unfair is our moral victory and a source of pride for our people. Summing up her visit, the prime minister said:

My visit has brought about a significant change in the Pak-U.S. relationship which since 1990 has been in a state of drift. Our positions on the critical issues of a regional approach to nuclear nonproliferation and Kashmir stand vindicated. Our commitment to global and regional security is fully appreciated. The value of trade and investment in the new relationship has been recognized and encouraged by both sides. This visit has thus proved to be a defining moment in the evolution of a new and more mature partnership between our two countries in the post-Cold War period.

The prime minister said in the post-Cold War era our relationship with the United States will have a new dimension. We shall now base our bilateral relationship on trade not aid, and on partnership instead of dependence.

A great deal of grand work still needs to be covered. New Areas of cooperation will be explored. The impediments [which] have continued to exist must be overcome. What is important is that the parameters have now been defined and a new beginning has now been made.

Referring to the joint statement issued simultaneously from Washington and Islamabad, she said:

We are gratified by the fact that the United States recognizes the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir. [Words indistinct] dispute will have to take into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people. Moreover, the U.S. fully appreciated that unless the core issue of Kashmir is resolved, other regional issues will remain frozen. The Clinton Administration is prepared to respond positively to our proposal that the U.S. mediates to find a solution to the Kashmir issue. It is now up to India to accept such mediation.

On arrival at the airport, the prime minister was greeted by the acting Punjab governor; chief ministers of the Punjab, Sindh, and NWFP [North-West Frontier Province]; federal ministers; and a large number of diplomats and political workers.

During her eight-day visit, the prime minister held crucial talks with President Clinton and other members of the U.S. Administration to promote the cause of Pakistan. Hundreds of thousands of workers of Pakistan People's Party, Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo Group, and allied parties thronged the airport to greet the prime minister. Following the press conference, the prime minister led the cavalcade of trucks, buses and motorcars amid vociferous slogans of Pakistan Zindabad [long live] and Benazir Bhutto Zindabad. There were jubilations all around. Our correspondent reports that it was for the first time that the chief executive of the country was given such an unprecedented welcome following a successful visit of the United States.

Addressing the processionists outside the airport, the prime minister declared that our politics is the politics of principles. She said we have made it clear to the American leadership that our nuclear program is peaceful and we will not accept unilateral pressure on the issue. We

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will take every possible action which we deem fit for the security of our country. The prime minister said our relations with the United States are improving. The American leadership has accepted [as heard] it will not take any unilateral action against Pakistan.

Referring to the Kashmir issue, the prime minister said Pakistan will always support the just struggle of the Kashmiris which is based on principles. Thousands ofpeople were standing on both sides of the road from the airport to Faizabad Chowk to welcome the prime minister.

The prime minister visited the mazar [tomb] of Hazrat Bari Imam at Nurpur Shahan to offer fateha [prayers] and prayed for the prosperity of the country. She remained at the mazar for some time. The annual urs [religious ceremony] of the saint began this morning.

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